

ENG

# Giro d'Italia

8-30 MAY 2021



RO  
PA  
RE  
GNA  
RO  
PO  
RE

EDITED BY  
GIUSEPPE FIGINI

f o t v y d  
GIRODITALIA.IT

La Gazzetta dello Sport  
Tutto il rosa della vita

RCS Sport  
Move your Business

UCI WORLD TOUR



# PLANIMETRIA GENERALE

## GENERAL ROUTE



TOT. KM

**3479,9**

AV. KM

**165,7**

# STAGES

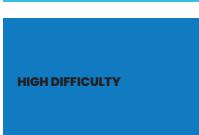
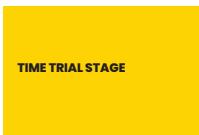
01	TORINO ▶ TORINO TISSOT ITT	Sat 08/05/21	7
02	STUPINIGI (NICHELINO) ▶ NOVARA	Sun 09/05/21	15
03	BIELLA ▶ CANALE	Mon 10/05/21	23
04	PIACENZA ▶ SESTOLA	Tue 11/05/21	31
05	MODENA ▶ CATTOLICA	Wed 12/05/21	39
06	GROTTE DI FRASASSI ▶ ASCOLI PICENO (SAN GIACOMO)	Thu 13/05/21	51
07	NOTARESCO ▶ TERMOLI	Fri 14/05/21	61
08	FOGGIA ▶ GUARDIA SANFRAMONDI	Sat 15/05/21	73
09	CASTEL DI SANGRO ▶ CAMPO FELICE (ROCCA DI CAMBIO)	Sun 16/05/21	87
10	L'AQUILA ▶ FOLIGNO	Mon 17/05/21	95
11	PERUGIA ▶ MONTALCINO (BRUNELLO DI MONTALCINO WINE STAGE)	Wed 19/05/21	103
12	SIENA ▶ BAGNO DI ROMAGNA	Thu 20/05/21	115
13	RAVENNA ▶ VERONA	Fri 21/05/21	123
14	CITTADELLA ▶ MONTE ZONCOLAN	Sat 22/05/21	135
15	GRADO ▶ GORIZIA	Sun 23/05/21	145
16	SACILE ▶ CORTINA D'AMPEZZO	Mon 24/05/21	155
17	CANAZEI ▶ SEGA DI ALA	Wed 26/05/21	163
18	ROVERETO ▶ STRADELLA	Thu 27/05/21	175
19	ABBIATEGRASSO ▶ ALPE DI MERA (VALSESIA)	Fri 28/05/21	185
20	VERBANIA ▶ VALLE SPLUGA/ALPE MOTTA	Sat 29/05/21	193
21	SENAGO ▶ MILANO TISSOT ITT	Sun 30/05/21	201

# REGIONS

PIEDMONT	21	UMBRIA	101
EMILIA-ROMAGNA	37	TUSCANY	111
MARCHE	58	VENETO	131
ABRUZZO	68	FRIULI-VENEZIA GIULIA	143
MOLISE	69	AUTONOMOUS PROVINCE OF TRENTO	171
PUGLIA	81	LOMBARDY	183
CAMPANIA	82		

## READING GUIDE

### STAGE TYPOLOGY

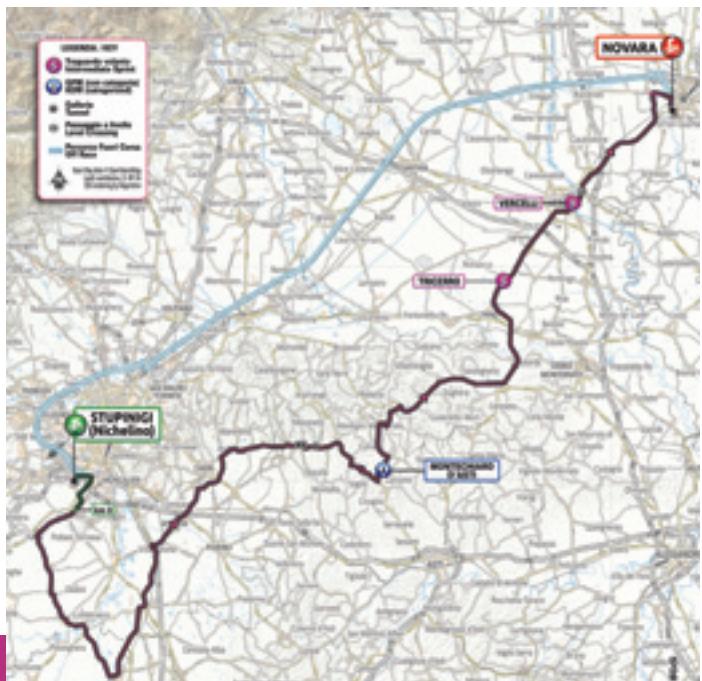


STAGE

START AND FINISH

02

STUPINIGI (NICHELINO) – NOVARA



Stage 2 of the 2021 Giro d'Italia, the first road stage, is raced entirely within Piedmont, touching many major centres of the region. Zipping across the lowland for 173 kilometres, the riders will take in just a few minor undulations, where the first KOM points will be up for grabs. Given the features of the route, the stage is likely to finish in a bunch sprint.

STAGES

### DISTINCTIVE ICONS ABOUT HIGHLIGHTED THEMES



WORD  
GENERAL INFO



COLUMN OR HOURGLASS  
HISTORY

## STAGE TYPOLOGY



02

## START

 STUPINIGI (NICHELINO) > TURIN > PIEDMONT

The flag is dropped in **Stupinigi**. The hamlet is part of the densely populated municipality of **Nichelino** (nearly 50,000 inhabitants), which belongs to the Metropolitan City of Turin and is located approx. 5 km south of the regional capital. Its population has grown considerably since the 1950s through a steady migration as a result of increasing industrialization in the area of Turin. The hamlet of Stupinigi, formerly part of the municipality of Vinovo until 1865, is renowned for its sumptuous **Palazzina di Caccia**. Built by the architect Filippo Juvarra according to the canons of Rococo, inside a large natural park that is home to rare plant species and wildlife, the complex also includes a mediaeval castle. It was built between 1729 and 1733 as a royal hunting lodge for the Savoy, as commissioned by Victor Amadeus II. The complex holds a collection of valuable artwork, and is also a venue for major international exhibitions. The Hunting Lodge has been listed as UNESCO World Heritage property since 1997, along with the Residences of the Royal House of Savoy.



The Hunting Lodge of Stupinigi.

Stupinigi was the finish location of the 2008 Giro del Piemonte (won by Sonny Colbrelli) and of the 2020 Milano-Torino (won by Frenchman Arnaud Démare in a powerful sprint).

KM 6

 NONE > TURIN > PIEDMONT

The route then passes through **None**. Main sights here include the **church of S.S. Gervasio e Protasio** dating back to 1720. Next along the route is **Virle Piemonte**.

Virle Piemonte was the birthplace of the professional rider Pietro Aymo (1892-1983). His older (and better-known) brother Bartolomeo won four Giro d'Italia stages and two Tour de France stages, and hit several other podium placements. Giovanni Valetti (1913-1998) was also native to this area. A Pro rider from 1935 to 1948, he won two consecutive editions of the Giro d'Italia (in 1938 and in 1939), and was the first Italian winner of the Tour de Suisse, in 1938.

 DISTINCTIVE ICONS ABOUT HIGHLIGHTED THEMES


## KM RIDDEN

## CITY/PROVINCE/REGION OF THE TRANSIT POINT

## IN PINK: STORIES RELATED TO GIRO D'ITALIA AND CYCLING

17

 BOOK CULTURE

 DISHES GASTRONOMY

 WINE ENOLOGY

# FOLLOW THE GIRO D'ITALIA

## OFFICIAL WEBSITE

WWW.GIRODITALIA.IT

## SOCIAL MEDIA

### # GIRO

-  Facebook (giroditalia)
-  Twitter (@giroditalia)
-  Instagram(@giroditalia)
-  Youtube (Giro d'Italia)
-  Dailymotion (Giro d'Italia)

## OFFICIAL APP

Available on Apple Store  
and Google Play Store

## OFFICIAL RADIO

**ITALY** Radio RAI

**URUGUAY** Radio Oriental

## OFFICIAL BROADCASTERS

**ITALY** RAI 2, Rai Sport +HD | **EUROPE, SOUTHEAST**

**ASIA AND INDIAN SUBCONTINENT** Eurosport,

Eurosport Player, GCN+ | **SWITZERLAND** SRG SSR |

**SOUTH AMERICA** ESPN Latinoamerica | **BRAZIL** ESPN

Brasil | **THE CARIBBEANS** ESPN Caribbean | **MEXICO**

& **CENTRAL AMERICA** TUDN | **COLOMBIA** Caracol |

**AUSTRALIA** SBS | **JAPAN** J Sports | **CHINA** Zhibo TV |

**SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA** Supersport | **NEW ZEALAND**

SKY Sport | **NORTH AMERICA, AUSTRALIA, JAPAN,**

**MIDDLE EAST, AFRICA** GCN+





01

# TORINO – TORINO TISSOT ITT

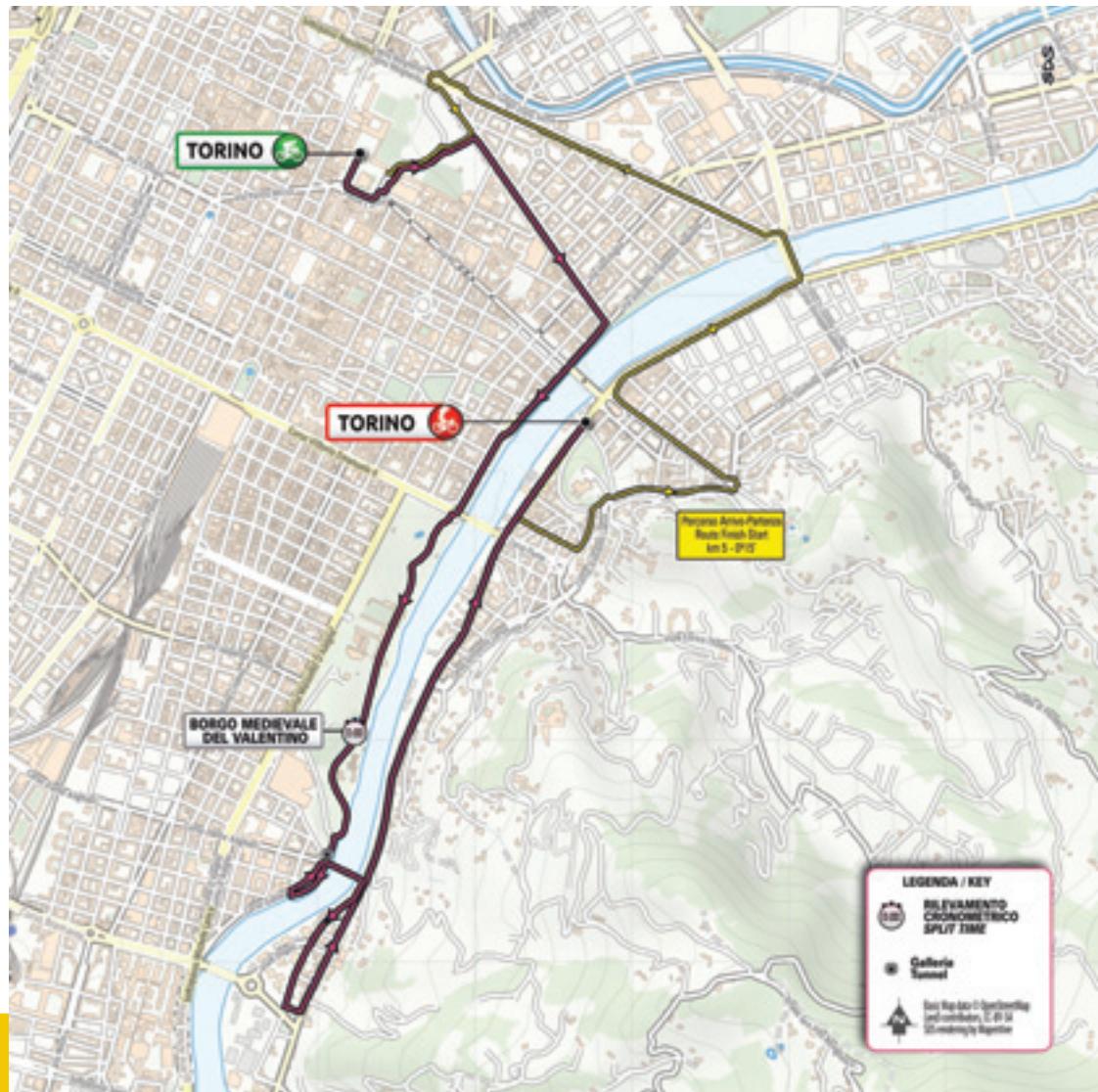
**KM 8,6**



08.05.2021  
**SATURDAY**



# TORINO - TORINO TISSOT ITT





The 2021 Giro d'Italia, the 104<sup>th</sup> edition of this long-standing race, is back to its usual schedule, starting in early May. Its route, a blend of sport, culture and passion, is a unique way to promote and showcase Italy – its territory, its assets and its qualities – worldwide. After the 2020 edition, held in autumn owing to the terrible Covid pandemic that caused deep fear and major limitations, the 104<sup>th</sup> edition of the Corsa Rosa will be, once again, a cheerful celebration of all the unique features of this legendary roadshow.

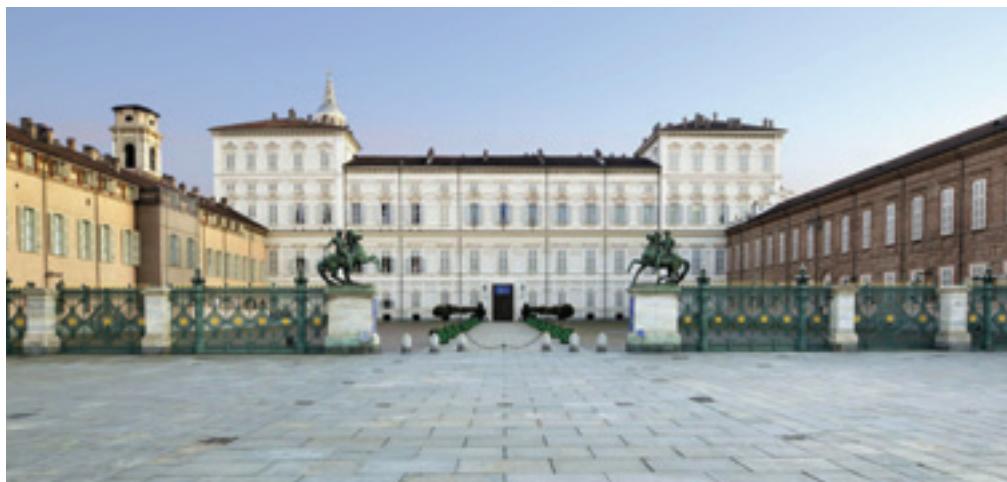
## START

### TORINO > TURIN > PIEDMONT

The preliminary appointments of the 2021 Giro d'Italia, the major Italian stage race, will take place in the marvellous **Torino (Turin)**, the historical capital of Piedmont. The city has a gridiron plan, with wide avenues running at right angles to each other. A rich and valuable architectural heritage (both civil and religious), in the inner city and on the surrounding verdant hills, speaks to the long and remarkable history of the city.

In the time of ancient Rome, Torino was known as Julia Augusta Taurinorum. Besides always playing a major role over the centuries, Turin became increasingly important under the Royal House of Savoy, and greatly contributed to the foundation of the Kingdom of Italy, on March 17, 1861. Turin became the first capital of the Kingdom, before the seat was moved to Florence in 1865.

2021 marks the 160<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the unification of Italy, and the Giro d'Italia is not new to paying tribute to this historical event. Mention must be made of the "Trittico Tricolore" (won by the Spaniard Miguel Poblet), held in 1961 as part of the Italian centenary commemoration,



*The Palazzo Reale in Turin.*

and of the 2011 team time trial starting in **Venaria Reale** and finishing at the heart of Turin, to celebrate the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Victory went to the US-based HTC-Highroad squad, and Marco Pinotti, first over the finish line, pulled on the first pink jersey.

Since the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, Turin has experienced a rapid and intense industrial transformation, with Fiat being the leading driver of it. Major legacy of that time includes the National Automobile Museum (**Museo dell'automobile**) and the **Lingotto**, the site of the former Fiat factory, currently redeveloped to house an exhibition centre and a shopping mall.

The 16-century Duomo houses the **Holy Shroud**, which is believed to be the burial shroud of Jesus. Standing at 167.5 meters high, the **Mole Antonelliana** is rightfully regarded as the symbol of the city since 1888. Named after the architect who built it, Alessandro Antonelli, it has been the seat of the popular **Museo Nazionale del Cinema** (National Cinema Museum) since 2000. Major landmarks also include the beautiful **Basilica of Superga**, rising at 672 m on the top of the hill of the same name. Built according to the canons of Classicism to a design by the architect Filippo Juvarra in the early 18<sup>th</sup> century, the building houses the Royal Tombs of the House of Savoy. Superga is also sadly remembered for the air disaster that killed 31 people, including players, directors,



*The Mole Antonelliana, the seat of the National Cinema Museum.*

journalists and the airplane crew on the way back from a game in Lisbon, on 4 May 1949. The unforgettable Grande Torino embodies the very essence of football in the city, along with Juventus. Superga has become an iconic place for cycling as well, as finish location of Milano-Torino. Mention should also be made of the nearby **velodrome**, which was used as finish location for many one-day races.

Turin has been an old friend and a frequent host of the Giro d'Italia, with 45 stage starts, 40 stage finishes, and twice the 'grand finale'. Back in 1982, overall victory went to Bernard Hinault, and in 2016, Vincenzo Nibali celebrated his second Giro win. The memorable velodrome (Motovelodromo), located in Corso Casale and named after Fausto Coppi, is no longer in use. It hosted plenty of Giro stage finishes, and was used as finish location for legendary one-day races such as Milano-Torino (the oldest one in Italy, first held in 1876) and Giro del Piemonte. Turin also hosted one Tour de France stage finish, homing in at the City Stadium, on the running track, in 1961.

Turin was the birthplace of successful racing riders, the likes of Italo Zilioli (1941, a leading figure in Italian cycling), Nino Defilippis (1932–2010, nicknamed "Cit", that is "young man" in the local dialect), and Angelo Conterno (1925–2007), known as "Pennina bianca" ("white feather"), the first Italian winner of the Vuelta a España in 1956.

The route of the ITT, winding its way through the heart of the city for nearly 9 kilometres, offers stunning views of the greatest city's landmarks on either banks of the **Po River**, of the lush hills that surround the inner city, and of the majestic peaks of the **Alps** a little further off, against the background.

The flag is dropped in the splendid, monumental setting of **Piazza Castello**, designed in 1584, the core of the city. Rising at the square of the piazza is the beautiful **Palazzo Madama**, one of the symbols of the history of the city. Formerly the seat of the Subalpine Senate from 1848 to 1864 and later of the Italian Senate, it now houses the **Museo Civico di Arte Antica** (Civic Museum of Ancient Art). Major landmarks overlooking Piazza Castello include Palazzo della Regione, the **church of San Lorenzo**, the beautiful Duomo with its Renaissance façade, and the imposing **Palazzo Reale**, the former royal palace of the House of Savoy from 1660 to 1865, with lush royal gardens. Walking the arcades of the elegant Via Roma will take you from Piazza Castello to the lovely **Piazza San Carlo**. The route weaves through Corso San Maurizio and Lungo Po Cadorna, all the way to the splendid, vast **Parco del Valentino**, redesigned in 1830. Inside the park is the majestic **Castello del Valentino**, built in the mid-17<sup>th</sup> century and modelled to a French castle. A mediaeval "hamlet" with accurate reconstructions of castles and buildings of the Aosta Valley was created for the 1884 Esposizione Internazionale (world's fair). The park also includes an exhibition hall called "Torino Esposizioni", designed by Pierluigi Nervi and Riccardo Morandi, and a university campus. The area is a green haven at the heart of the city, offering countless opportunities for outdoor sports activities.

The route passes Ponte Balbis (formerly known as Ponte Vittorio Emanuele III), crossing over to the right bank of the Po, merges onto Corso Galileo Galilei, follows the lengthy Corso Moncalieri up to Piazza Zara and passes the intersection with Corso Lanza, heading

for the finish by the **Gran Madre di Dio**, in the Borgo Po neighbourhood. The church is one of the leading religious sites in Turin. It was designed by the architect Ferdinando Bonsignore to the canons of Neoclassicism, with a circular floorplan. Finally completed in 1831, it was built to celebrate the return of King Victor Emmanuel I after the French occupation under Napoleon Bonaparte. **Ponte Vittorio Emanuele I**, the oldest stone bridge of the city, and the iconic 19-century "murazzi" (embankments) are just a short distance away.

This stunning, magnificent and royal scenery awaits to celebrate the first rider in the leader's jersey.

# NOTE

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

# PIEMONTE

## *Regione del Grande Sport*

Lo sci mondiale delle montagne olimpiche.

Il ciclismo che si snoda tra le colline del vino, delle regge e delle strade cittadine.

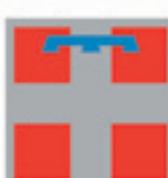
Il calcio europeo, che rappresenta storia, presente e futuro del pallone italiano e il tennis internazionale che vedrà nei prossimi anni il PIEMONTE come grande palcoscenico.

E domani, con il massimo impegno possibile di tutti, pronti anche a vincere la scommessa per ospitare le Universiadi e gli Special Olympics. La Regione Piemonte, nonostante un momento difficile come quello appena trascorso per la pandemia di Coronavirus, non ha mai smesso di credere nello sport, investendo su chi lo anima e su chi lo ama. Far tornare gli italiani a praticare l'attività fisica che hanno nel cuore nel nostro territorio, in sicurezza, è stata per mesi la missione principale della Regione.

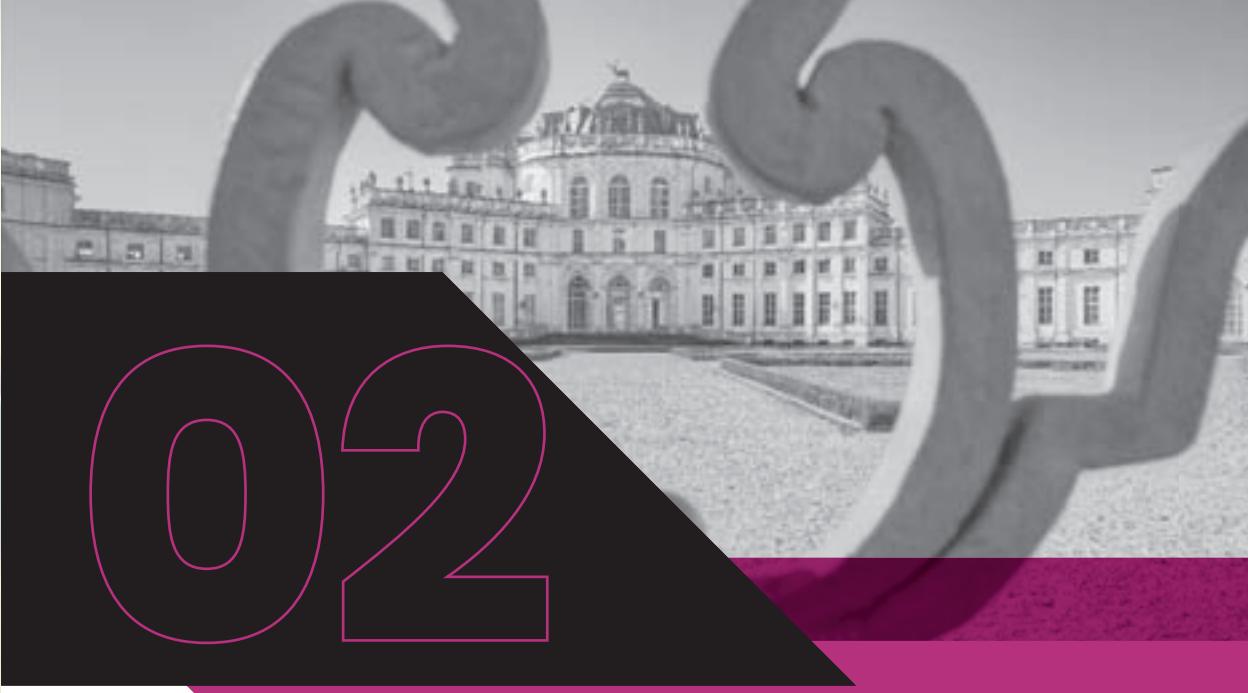


FOTO: <http://www.spaziotorino.it/>

IL  
**PIEMONTE**  
VI ASPETTA PER  
**RICOMINCIARE**  
**INSEME A**  
**SOGNARE**



**REGIONE  
PIEMONTE**



02

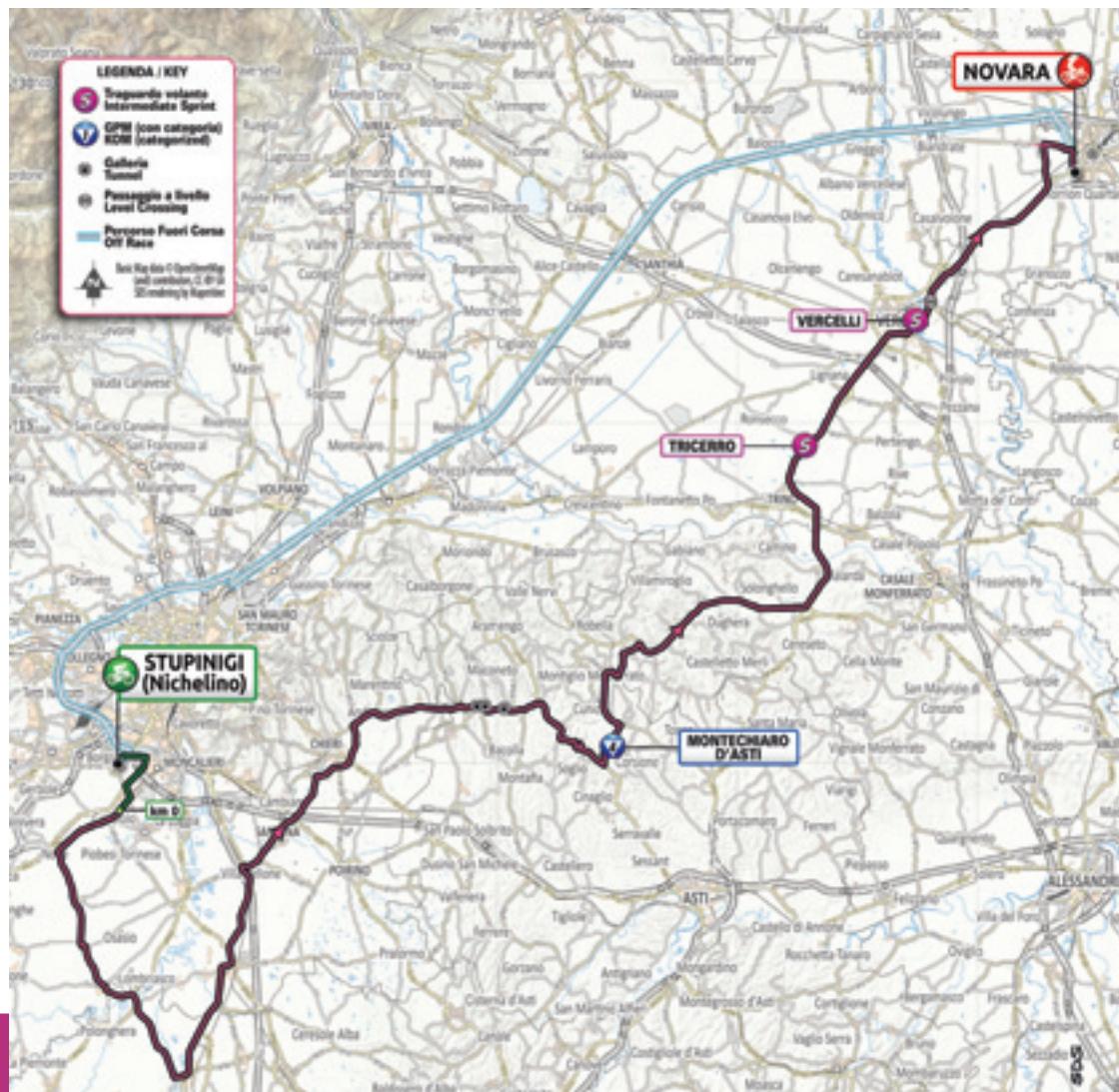
# STUPINIGI (NICHELINO) – NOVARA

**KM 179**



09.05.2021  
**SUNDAY**

# STUPINIGI (NICHELINO) – NOVARA



Stage 2 of the 2021 Giro d'Italia, the first road stage, is raced entirely within Piedmont, touching many major centres of the region. Zipping across the lowland for 173 kilometres, the riders will take in just a few minor undulations, where the first KOM points will be up for grabs. Given the features of the route, the stage is likely to finish in a bunch sprint.



## START

### STUPINIGI (NICHELINO) ➤ TURIN ➤ PIEDMONT

The flag is dropped in **Stupinigi**. The hamlet is part of the densely populated municipality of **Nichelino** (nearly 50,000 inhabitants), which belongs to the Metropolitan City of Turin and is located approx. 5 km south of the regional capital. Its population has grown considerably since the 1950s through a steady migration as a result of increasing industrialization in the area of Turin. The hamlet of Stupinigi, formerly part of the municipality of Vinovo until 1865, is renowned for its sumptuous **Palazzina di Caccia**. Built by the architect Filippo Juvarra according to the canons of Rococo, inside a large natural park that is home to rare plant species and wildlife, the complex also includes a mediaeval castle. It was built between 1729 and 1733 as a royal hunting lodge for the Savoy, as commissioned by Victor Amadeus II. The complex holds a collection of valuable artwork, and is also a venue for major international exhibitions. The Hunting Lodge has been listed as UNESCO World Heritage property since 1997, along with the Residences of the Royal House of Savoy.



*The Hunting Lodge of Stupinigi.*

Stupinigi was the finish location of the 2008 Giro del Piemonte (won by Sonny Colbrelli) and of the 2020 Milano-Torino (won by Frenchman Arnaud Démare in a powerful sprint).

## KM 6

### NONE ➤ TURIN ➤ PIEDMONT

The route then passes through **None**. Main sights here include the **church of S.S. Gervasio e Protasio** dating back to 1720. Next along the route is **Virle Piemonte**.

Virle Piemonte was the birthplace of the professional rider Pietro Aymo (1892-1983). His older (and better-known) brother Bartolomeo won four Giro d'Italia stages and two Tour de France stages, and hit several other podium placements. Giovanni Valetti (1913-1998) was also native to this area. A Pro rider from 1935 to 1948, he won two consecutive editions of the Giro d'Italia (in 1938 and in 1939), and was the first Italian winner of the Tour de Suisse, in 1938.

KM 30

## ○ RACCONIGI ➤ CUNEO ➤ PIEDMONT

Rolling through the fertile farming lowlands, the route enters the province of Cuneo passing through **Casalgrasso** (home to different farm machinery manufacturers) and **Racconigi**. This densely populated town has a valuable architectural heritage that includes the royal castle (**castello sabaudo**) and park, which have been listed as UNESCO World Heritage property since 1997, along with the Residences of the Royal House of Savoy. Racconigi was the birthplace of Umberto II (1904–Geneva 1983), who reigned as the last King of Italy from 9 May to 18 June 1946 only, because Italy was declared a republic following the referendum of 2 June 1946. The town is home to a major bird conservation centre for the protection of storks and waterfowl (Centro cicogne e anatidi), established in 1985.



*The Royal Castle in Racconigi.*

Racconigi hosted Giro d'Italia stage starts in 1997 (Racconigi – Breuil-Cervinia) and in 1999 (Racconigi – Santuario di Oropa). The latter will always be remembered for Marco Pantani's stunning comeback along the climb, sealing stage win in the leader's jersey.

KM 40

## ○ CARMAGNOLA ➤ TURIN ➤ PIEDMONT

The route is back to the province of Turin, as the stage passes through **Carmagnola**. The town is a major farming town, renowned for vegetable crops including the exquisite "peperone di Carmagnola" (bell pepper), as well as a lively industrial and commercial hub. The inner town has lovely houses, arcades and frescoes. Main sights also include the old **church of Sant'Agostino**.

KM 50

## ○ VILLASTELLONE ➤ TURIN ➤ PIEDMONT

The lovely farming town of **Villastellone**, next along the route, is a venue for culinary festivals (celebrating local produce, such as potatoes and frogs), with a valuable architectural heritage.

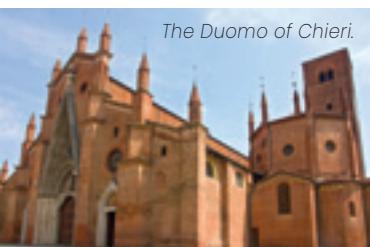
KM 55

## SÀNTENA ➤ TURIN ➤ PIEDMONT

**Sàntena**, next along the route, is the producer of an exquisite local asparagus variety, and is especially renowned for being the burial site of Camillo Benso, Count of Cavour (Turin 1810–1861), once a leading politician and patriot

KM 60

## CHIERI ➤ TURIN ➤ PIEDMONT



*The Duomo of Chieri.*

**Chieri**, nestled among the hills of Turin and the undulations of the Montferrat, is the main town of this area. The historic centre has retained its distinctive features, with valuable Gothic monuments. Main sights include the 15-century **Duomo**, dedicated to Santa Maria della Scala, the **church of San Domenico** and the church of **San Giorgio**. Chieri, once a major centre for textile production, is now home to a diverse range of manufacturing activities

The sprinter Mario Ghella (1929) was native to the town. He was gold medallist at the 1948 London Olympics and at the amateur sprint event of the Amsterdam Track Cycling World Championships. His record of achievements also includes four National Individual Sprint Championships as an amateur, and one as a Pro.

KM 75

## CASTELNUOVO DON BOSCO ➤ ASTI ➤ PIEDMONT

The stage then enters the province of Asti through **Castelnuovo Don Bosco**. The town has a remarkable heritage of religious and civil architectures, and rolling vineyards aplenty. The town, "a place of saints and wines", was the birthplace of San Giovanni Bosco (1815–1888, the founder of the Salesians and Salesians Sisters), of San Giuseppe Cafasso (1811–Turin 1860, the patron of the prisoners and of those who were condemned to death), and of San Giuseppe Allamano (1851–Turin 1926, the founder of the Consolata Missionaries). All of them were part of a group known as "santi sociali torinesi".

Luigi Marchisio (1909–1992) was also born here. He was the Giro d'Italia winner in 1930, as his captain Alfredo Binda did not race it to the end: he was awarded the money prize and was not allowed to finish the Giro, given his overt superiority. The 11th stage, Parma-Colle Don Bosco in 1988 was neutralized because of a demonstration of ecologists and all the riders were classified with the same time at the stage finish.



KM 155



## VERCELLI > VERCELLI > PIEDMONT

**Vercelli** rises on the banks of River Sesia. The city is a major producer of superior rice varieties, and is recognised as the "capital of rice". Major landmarks include the Neoclassical **Duomo**, dedicated to Sant'Eusebio, the early-13th century **Basilica of Sant'Andrea**, a symbol of the city and a splendid fusion of French Gothic architecture and Lombard Romanesque style, and the **church of San Cris-toforo**, holding frescoes by Gaudenzio Ferrari. Notable sights also include **Piazza Cavour**, the **Castello Visconteo** and several mediaeval towers. In the early 20th century, Vercelli had a successful football team that scored an amazing 7 League championship wins between 1908 and 1922.

Vercelli only hosted one Giro d'Italia stage finish, in 1992. Starting in Sondrio, the stage was won by Mario Cipollini, who outsprinted Adriano Baffi and Giovanni Fidanza.

## FINISH



## NOVARA > NOVARA > PIEDMONT

**Novara** is a provincial capital, and the second largest city by population in the region. Strategically located at the heart of the road network that connects the so-called "industrial triangle" (Turin-Milan-Genoa) and Switzerland, and not far from Lombardy, Novara has always been a leading centre and a busy road hub. Local economy relies on trade, industry, culture and services.

The **Basilica of San Gaudenzio**, dedicated to the patron Saint of the city, is the major landmark. Rising to 121 metres and made entirely of brickwork, the church holds a valuable collection of paintings. It was completed in 1887 to a project by Alessandro Antonelli (Ghemme 1798-Turin 1888), the architect who also designed the Mole Antonelliana (in Turin) and redesigned the Neoclassic cathedral (**Duomo**) and Baptistry, originally built in 1577 to a project by Pellegrino Tibaldi. Main sights also include the **Broletto** and the **Castello Visconteo**.

Special mention should also be made of the **Istituto Geografico De Agostini**:

with over a hundred years of history, it is one of the major publishing entities on an international scale.

Local cuisine offers a wealth of traditional specialties, such as "**paniscia**" (risotto with lard, salami and vegetables) and Gorgonzola (originating from Lombardy and Piedmont, this excellent PDO-labelled cheese is now produced chiefly in the area of Novara). Equally noteworthy are the iconic "pavesini" biscuits (the leading product of the local manufacturer, Pavesi). Novara is also the 'home' of the world-famous Campari aperitif, invented by Gaspare Campari (1828-1882) in 1860.



The Castello Visconteo in Novara.

# PIEDMONT

**Piedmont** is a region in northwest Italy with **Turin** as its capital. It shares borders with France, the Aosta Valley, Switzerland, Lombardy, Emilia-Romagna (for a little under 8 km) and Liguria.

Its territory can be divided into three concentric bands, the largest of which is the outer, mountainous circle of the Alps and the Apennines (43%). Inside it is a hilly band (30%), and inside that, the flatlands (27%). The Alps surround the region to the west and north, and the Apennines form a natural frontier with Liguria and Emilia-Romagna. Piedmont comes from the Latin *pedemontium*, meaning ‘at the foot of the mountains’, and is so named because it is surrounded by the mountains on three sides. The mountains in Piedmont are impressive and rugged: from over 3,000 metres, the land descends rapidly to the plain. In the western part of the region, there are no foothills. The region’s highest peaks, all over 4,000 m, are in the west: the **Monte Rosa** massif and the **Gran Paradiso**. The main hilly areas are the Canavese (to the northwest), the Langhe and the Roero (to the south), the Monferrato (in the centre) and the Tortonesi hills (to the southeast), all of which are renowned wine producing areas. The Po Valley, which begins between these hills and the Alps, is covered in rice fields, especially in the provinces of Vercelli and Novara, owing to the abundant available water.

Large numbers of rivers and streams flow through the region, and into the **Po** River that has its source on the **Pian del Re** at the foot of the **Monviso**, and crosses the region from west to east.

Other rivers include the Tanaro, the Dora Riparia, the Dora Baltea, the Ticino and the Toce. There are also many Alpine lakes, with glacial and moraine origins: **Lake Maggiore** (at the border with Lombardy), **Lake Orta** and **Lake Viverone**.

193,000 hectares of the region, nearly 8% of its total surface, are protected areas. Inhabited since the Neolithic, Piedmont was occupied by Celtic and Ligurian peoples (the Taurini and Salassi) in the 1st millennium BC, then conquered by the Romans, who founded colonies like Augusta Taurinorum (the present-day Turin) and Eporedia (Ivrea). After the decline of the Western Roman Empire, the region was raided and conquered by the Burgundians (Flavius Odoacer), the Goths, the Byzantines, the Lombards, Franks, Magyars and Saracens. Divided into counties and marches, the region was partly unified (into the marches of Torino and Ivrea) in the 11th century by Manfred I, who left it to Otto, Count of Savoy.

The reunification of Piedmont under the House of Savoy took many centuries. Only after the 1559 Peace of Cateau-Cambrésis, did Emmanuel Philibert and his successors begin the reunification process, which was completed in 1748 with the Treaty of Aachen.

After the Napoleonic occupation, Piedmont shared the fortunes of the Kingdom of Sardinia and played a central role in the Italian Risorgimento and in the construction of the new, unified state, which adopted Piedmont’s juridical and political structure (Statuto Albertino, or Albertine Statute, 1948). Piedmont was the crucial political and social “laboratory”, with workers’ strikes during the World Wars, the experiences of Antonio Gramsci and Piero Gobetti, mass participation in the Resistance, and Adriano Olivetti’s industrial innovations (typewriters and personal computers).

The process of industrialisation was extraordinary: from the agricultural structures of the Savoy reign, starting in the 1850s, the region modernised rapidly to the point of becoming, at the beginning of the 20th century, one corner of the industrial triangle where Italy's economic take-off took place. The economic fabric, in which FIAT played the preponderant role, attracted huge migration in the 1950s and 1960s, causing social and cultural transformations.

Another mainstay of Piedmont's economy is the confectionery industry (from chocolate to the invention of Nutella by Ferrero). Local signature produce also includes the renowned white truffles of Alba. The Slow Food movement, founded by Carlo "Carlin" Petrini, is based in Bra.

Piedmont has an extraordinarily varied historical, cultural and artistic heritage, with legends and traditions that are still alive. Its endless architectural legacy covers the Roman, Romanesque, Baroque, Art Nouveau and modern periods. Moreover, the region boasts a network of over 150 museums of international renown, such as the **National Museum of Cinema**, the **Egyptian Museum in Turin**, the **GAM-Galleria d'Arte Moderna** (Gallery of Modern Art), the **Filatoio Rosso in Caraglio**, and the **Museo dei Campionissimi**.

Equally noteworthy are the itineraries covering the fifteen **Residences of the Royal House of Savoy**, or the thirteen historical towns (Borghi Storici) of Piedmont.

There are also places of great **spiritual significance**, such as the **Via Francigena**, or the seven **Sacred Mountains** of Piedmont, which are inscribed on the UNESCO list of World Heritage Sites.



03

# BIELLA – CANALE

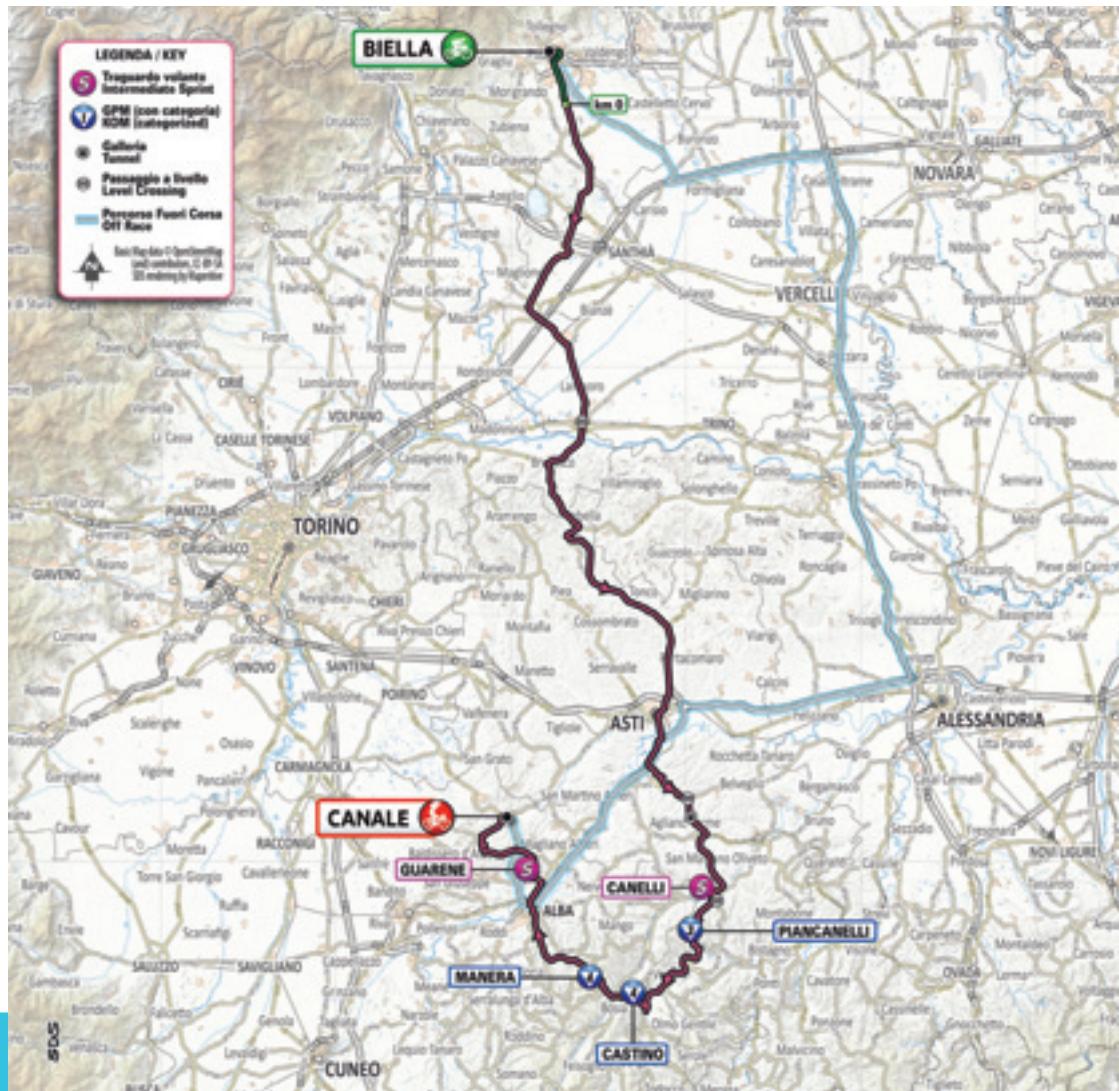
KM 190



10.05.2021  
MONDAY



## BIELLA - CANALE



This stage, too, is race entirely within Piedmont. The region is prominent in the opening phases of the 104th edition of the race, and will also be part of the route in the closing stages.



## START

### BIELLA > BIELLA > PIEDMONT

The flag is dropped in **Biella**. The city, currently a provincial capital, is divided into a lower town, called the "Piano", to the right of River Cervo, and an upper town, called the "Piazzo". Rising further uphill, and built between the 14th and 16th centuries, the Piazzo has retained its original mediaeval structure. Major historical and artistic heritage include the Baptistry and the **Cathedral of S. Stefano**, with its **bell tower**. Main sights also include sumptuous villas and palaces.

Nearby, rising on a hilltop 1,180 metres above sea level, is the imposing Marian sanctuary dedicated to the **Black Madonna**. It is one of the oldest and largest sanctuaries in Italy, and the most important site of religious pilgrimage in the region. Accommodation facilities were further developed and expanded in the 17th century on the initiative of the House of Savoy, and thanks to valuable support by the architects Filippo Juvarra and Guarino Guarini. The sanctuary has been listed as UNESCO World Heritage site since 2002.

Biella is globally recognised as a lively industrial centre, especially in the textile field. The city is also home to a famous nature reserve called **Parco Naturale Speciale della Bucina**. Biella was hometown to Quintino Sella (1827-1884), politician and three-time finance minister of the Kingdom of Italy. He majored in mineralogy, and he is also remembered for being one of the founders of the Club Alpino Italiano (CAI) in 1863. Notable natives also include Giacomo Debenedetti (1901-1967), essayist and literary critic.



Santo Stefano Cathedral in Biella.

The list of Giro stage winners at the Sanctuary of Oropa includes Vito Taccone in 1963, Massimo Ghiotto in 1993, Marco Pantani in 1999 (after an unforgettable comeback), Marzio Bruseghin in the 2007 uphill time trial, Enrico Battaglin in 2014, and Tom Dumoulin in 2017 (in the leader's jersey, which he defended, lost and finally regained in the closing stage).

Biella hosted stage finishes in 1964, with victory going to Gianni Motta, and in 1996, with victory going to the Dane Nicolay Bo Larsen, and six stage starts, including this year.



KM 30



## LIVORNO FERRARIS > VERCELLI > PIEDMONT

The stage then enters the province of Vercelli, as the route passes through **Livorno Ferraris**. Galileo Ferraris (Livorno Piemonte 1847-Turin 1897), after whom the town is now named, was a scientist and engineer. He discovered the rotary magnetic field and the AC motor, and later served as a senator. His brother, Adamo, was Giuseppe Garibaldi's personal physician. Rice farming is the main driver of local economy in this area, where waterways are prominent.

KM 40



## CRESCENTINO > VERCELLI > PIEDMONT

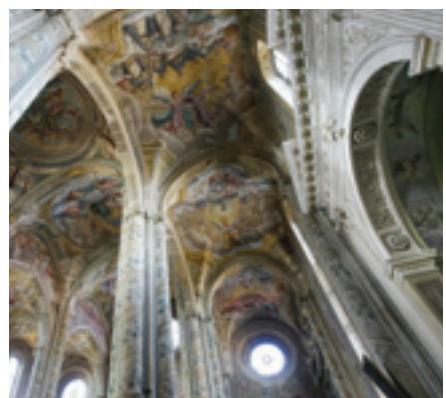
**Crescentino**, next along the route, sits at the confluence of the Dora Baltea and the Po, inside the 'Palude San Genuario' nature reserve. The town was the birthplace of Angelo Cinico (1901-Rome 1983), known by his stage name Cinico Angelini. A musician, composer and conductor, he was very popular (especially among radio listeners) from 1930 to the early 1970s. Main sights here include the Madonna di Palazzo sanctuary. Besides being a traditional rice farming town, Crescentino has grown into a leading engineering centre to provide support to the nearby power plants.

KM 85



## ASTI > ASTI > PIEDMONT

**Asti** is a picturesque mediaeval city, with buildings made of red bricks and yellow tuff stone, and dotted with towers. Major religious buildings include the **Romanesque-Gothic collegiate church of San Secondo** (housing the remains of the patron saint of the city), the cathedral dedicated to **Santa Maria Assunta** (the major Gothic cathedral in Piedmont) and the **Rotonda di S. Pietro** (dating back to the Middle Ages). Main civil buildings include **Palazzo Catena**, Palazzo Zoya, Palazzo del Podestà, the mediaeval towers and the elegant Via Alfieri, at the heart of the city. Major events include the popular **Palio di Asti**, a bareback horse race through the city streets.



*The vault of Santa Maria Assunta Cathedral in Asti.*

The local food and wine scene offers excellent experiences, especially with **Asti Spumante DOCG**, both "dolce" (sweet) and "secco" (dry). Red wines such as Barbera, Dolcetto, Grignolino, Freisa and Ruché are equally valued, and pair perfectly with the diverse and tasty delights of local cuisine.

Notable natives of the town include Vittorio Alfieri (1749–Florence 1803, playwright and poet), Paolo Conte (1937, lawyer and musician), Giorgio Faletti (1950–Turin 2014, showman and writer), and Giovanni Gerbi (1885–1955), the "Red Devil", a historic pioneer of cycling.

The list of Giro stage winners in Asti includes Giuseppe Olmo (1935), Rik Van Looy (1960), Vito Taccone (1963), Alessandro Petacchi (2003) and the Czech Josef Černý (2020), who attacked at 20 kilometres out, winning ahead of his former fellow breakaway riders. Originally scheduled to run 258 km from Morbegno to Asti, the stage was halved in length (to 124.5 kilometres) following a protest by the riders against the weather conditions and the lengthy route, and the new starting point was set in Abbiategrasso.

## KM 115

### CANELLI > ASTI > PIEDMONT

**Canelli**, next along the route, lies at the mouth of the Valle Belbo. It is the second largest town of the province by population (nearly 10,000) and the second most important cultural and industrial centre, after Asti. The lovely inner city rises partly on a gentle hill, whereas long underground cellars referred to as "wine cathedrals" hold millions of bottles of Asti Spumante, left to ferment at a steady 12-14 degrees. The town is also a leading centre for winemaking equipment and technology.

In June 2014, Canelli and Asti Spumante were made a UNESCO World Heritage site, within the **Vineyard Landscape of Piedmont: Langhe-Roero and Monferrato**.

The ancient 11-century **castle**, rising on the summit of the hill, underwent repeated renovation throughout the centuries. It was converted into a lovely villa in 1930, and it now belongs to the Gancia family. Main sights also include the churches of San Tommaso and of San Leonardo.



A nice view of Canelli, with the castle on top of the hill.



KM 122

**PIANCANELLI > ASTI > PIEDMONT**

The profile changes and becomes wavier, as the route takes in a 3rd category climb up to **Piancanelli** (within the municipal theory of Loazzolo). The route then enters the province of Cuneo, and more specifically the Langhe. The riders will first negotiate a 4th category climb, rising to 540 metres, in **Cästino** (a lovely town with beautiful churches). Past Campetto and **Borgomale** (main sight here is the church of S. Eusebio), the peloton will contest another 4th category climb, rising to 625 metres, in **Manera (Bric del Ferro)**, a frazione of Benevello.

KM 170

**ALBA > CUNEO > PIEDMONT**

**Alba**, the major city of the area of rolling hills known as the Langhe, sits on the right bank of river Tanaro, on a scenic plateau that offers stunning views of the Langhe and Roero hills. The city streets follow the polygonal route of the ancient defensive walls, and the mediaeval inner city has survived well-preserved to date, with old towers and tower-houses.

Major religious buildings include the late-15th century Gothic **Duomo** and the churches of **San Domenico** and **San Giovanni Battista**. Main sights also include the **Town Hall** and the elegant buildings that line the central Via Vittorio Emanuele.

Alba is recognised as the **white truffle** capital, as demonstrated by the **Fiera Internazionale del Tartufo Bianco**, an international fair that has been running since 1928. Local specialties also include the fine **Barbaresco**, **Moscato** and **Barolo** DOCG wines, along with **Barbera**, **Dolcetto** and **Nebbiolo** DOC wines.

The industrial sector is well developed, with big names such as **Ferrero**, Editrice San Paolo, Mondo (world leader in the production of rubber and plastic materials for flooring systems) and Miroglio (leader in textiles).



*The city of Alba, with its iconic towers.*

Alba was hometown to Beppe Fenoglio (1922–1963, writer and resistance fighter, who recounted the Langhe and the Resistance movement), to Roberto Longhi (1890–1970, scholar, historian and art critic), to Aldo Cazzullo (1966, journalist) and to Diego Rosa (1989, professional racing cyclist).

The city hosted two Giro d'Italia stage finishes, with Guido Reybroeck (Bel) and Alessandro Petacchi sprinting to victory respectively in 1968 and in 2004, and two Giro d'Italia stage starts (in 2011 and in 2020). Alba was also the finish location for the Giro del Piemonte.

## FINISH

### CANALE > CUNEO > PIEDMONT

**Canale**, making its debut as Giro d'Italia stage location this year, has a population of approx. 5,500. The town lies to the left of River Tanaro, in a hilly geographical area in the north-eastern part of the province of Cuneo known as Roero, which is named after a prominent local family who dominated Asti and the environs for many centuries since the Middle Ages. Along with the Langhe and Monferrato, the Roero was made a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2014. The area has unique geological features called **Rocche**

**del Roero**, a system of gorges, canyons and ravines resulting from erosion. This area is rich in orchards and vineyards that yield excellent wines, including top-quality DOCG labels, such as **Roero** (red) and **Roero Arneis** (white), and DOC labels, such as Roero Arneis Spumante.

Hamlets and villages are scattered on the surrounding reliefs, in a lovely scenery, while the inner town lies at the foothills. The central Via Roma is lined with old arcades, dating back to the age of the medieval communes.

Canale boasts a wealth of festivals and traditional events, such as the "Fiera del pesco". Local economy is mostly based on small businesses and farms, and especially wineries.



An example of the unique geological features of the Roero.



# NOTE

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



04

# PIACENZA - SESTOLA

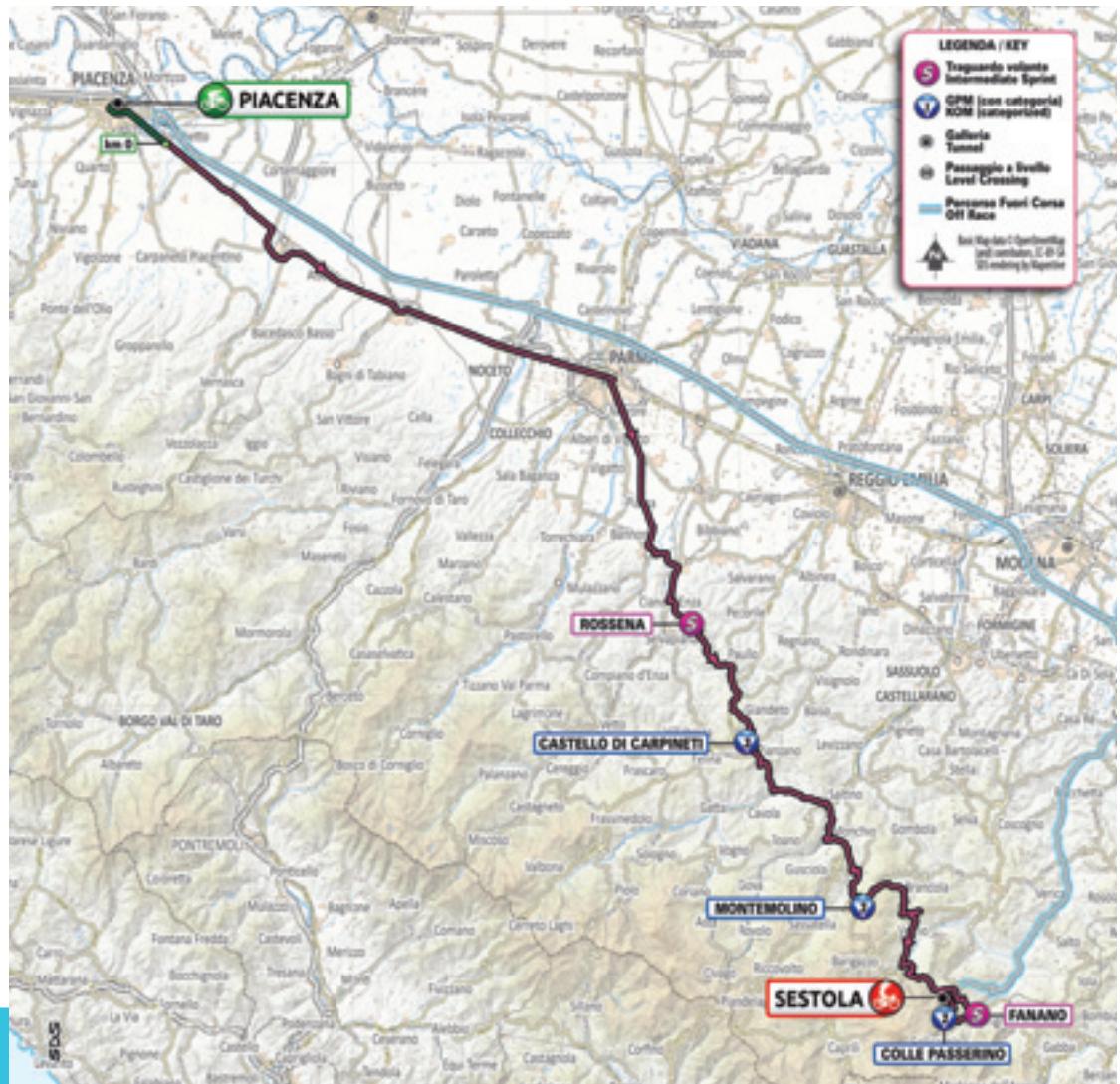
**KM 187**



11.05.2021  
**TUESDAY**



## PIACENZA – SESTOLA



Stage 4, the first one outside Piedmont, runs entirely within Emilia-Romagna. The route will take the peloton from the heart of the Po Valley all the way to Sestola, in the Apennines around Modena. Beginning flat, the profile becomes much wavier in the second half of the stage, with the first summit finish (although not classified) that will provide a rough assessment of the playing field.



## START



**PIACENZA** > PIACENZA > EMILIA-ROMAGNA

**Piacenza** is a city of ancient history, with a population of over 100 thousand inhabitants. Lying along the right bank of the Po, it is strategically located as a major road and railway hub. The old centre has retained its original architectural heritage, with red-brick buildings aplenty. The elegant **Piazza dei Cavalli**, with its two iconic equestrian statues, is the lively heart of the town. Main sights here include the late-13th century Town Hall (**Palazzo Comunale**) also referred to as "il Gotico", standing as the symbol of the city, and the **church of San Francesco**. Piacenza boasts a valuable heritage of religious buildings and artworks, which also includes the Romanesque-Gothic **Duomo**, and the churches of **San Antonino**, **San Savino** and **San Sisto**.

Major landmarks also include the **Palazzo Farnese** (the seat of the Civic Museums), the Governor's Palace (**Palazzo del Governatore**), the **Ricci-Otti Modern Art Gallery**, and the **Municipal Theatre**, dedicated to Giuseppe Verdi. All of them speak to the long history of the city.

Notable natives include the world-famous fashion designer Giorgio Armani (1934) and the successful track and road cyclist Giorgia Bronzini (1983).

Piacenza hosted two Giro d'Italia stage finishes: in 1968, victory went to Guerrino Tosello ahead of Adriano Durante, whereas in 1986, the powerful Guido "Guidone" Bontempi outsprinted the Belgian Erik Vanderaerden and the current race director, Stefano Allocchio. The city also hosted two stage starts: both were time trial stages (an ITT in 1986 and a TTT in 2006), finishing in Cremona.



*The Palazzo Farnese in Piacenza, the seat of the Civic Museums.*



*The Cathedral of Piacenza.*



KM 15



## FIORENZUOLA D'ARDA &gt; PIACENZA &gt; EMILIA-ROMAGNA

The beautiful **Fiorenzuola d'Arda**, next along the route, is renowned for the church of San Fiorenzo. The town is at the core of a great cycling tradition with the still-running velodrome named after Attilio Pavesi (1910–2011), who was born in nearby Caorso and won two gold medals at the 1932 Olympics in Los Angeles, in the individual and in the team time trials. At the end of his career he moved to Argentina, but he retained a strong bond with his homeland. Fiorenzuola has historically been a leading pole for Italian track cycling with the Sei Giorni delle Rose, a major international event promoted by local passionate supporters of this sport. The young Silvia Zanardi (2000), a native of the town, had a promising start to her career, by winning the Junior track cycling World Championships.

KM 30



## FIDENZA &gt; PARMA &gt; EMILIA-ROMAGNA

The route enters the province of Parma through **Fidenza**, a major industrial, commercial and agricultural town. Main sights here include the Romanesque Duomo, and the mediaeval old town, with the imposing Town Hall. Fidenza was the birthplace of the famous comedian, showman and TV host Gene Gnocchi (born Eugenio Ghiozzi, 1955). We also hold fond memories of Tarcisio Persegona. Born in nearby Noceto, he was a great and generous cycling supporter and a strong rider as well. He passed away at age 80, in November 2018.

KM 50



## PARMA &gt; PARMA &gt; EMILIA-ROMAGNA

**Parma**, next along the route, has a rich monumental legacy – a valuable artistic and historical heritage that leading artists and craftsmen have created throughout the ages. Outstanding examples include the **Duomo**, the **Baptistery**, the **church of San Giovanni Evangelista**, the **Teatro Regio** (one of the leading opera houses), the **National Archaeological Museum**, the **Palazzo Ducale**, the famous **Certosa** (Carthusian monastery) that inspired Stendhal's novel, "The Charterhouse of Parma". The famous conductor Arturo Toscanini (1887–New York 1957), the actors Lino Ventura (1919–1987) and Franco Nero (1941), the writers and directors of the Bertolucci family, Alberto Bevilacqua (1934–2013), and Vittorio Adorni, a cycling testimonial in an area that has been the birthplace of many other successful riders, were all born in Parma.



The Certosa of Parma.



KM 70

## TRAVERSETOLO > PARMA > EMILIA-ROMAGNA

**Traversetolo**, next along the route, is a lively and populous town lying at the foothills, with a remarkable architectural heritage. The Fondazione Magnani-Rocca, a collection of figurative artworks by leading international authors from different periods, deserves a special mention. The town was the birthplace of the Fontana sisters – Zoe (1911), Micol (1913) and Giovanna (1915) – the founders of the famous Sorelle Fontana fashion house. Established in Rome in 1947, its high-end items were a favourite among movie stars and celebrities for decades.

KM 80

## ROSSENA > REGGIO EMILIA > EMILIA-ROMAGNA

The route enters the province of Reggio Emilia, in the municipal territory of Canossa, and reaches **Rossena**, a quaint hamlet of ancient origins. The village is renowned for the **castle** of the same name, an old military fortress built to defend the castle of Canossa. The castle of Rossena has preserved its original layout as a stronghold to protect against the attacks from the valley of the Enza river. Probably, it was Azzo Adalberto, marquis of Canossa, who ordered its construction around 950.

Rossena is included in the so-called Terre Matildiche, that is, the domains of Matilde di Canossa (1046-1115), a territory imbued with history attested by numerous medieval castles and strongholds.

The village stands against the backdrop of the verdant Mount Albano, ideal for trekking and mountain bike or horse rides.



*The castle of Rossena.*

KM 110

## CARPINETI > REGGIO EMILIA > EMILIA-ROMAGNA

Next comes **Carpineti**, a town of ancient history, with a rich monumental heritage. Here, the road starts to rise, taking in a 3rd category climb up to 780 metres, by the castle of Carpineti.



KM 140

**PALAGANO > MODENA > EMILIA-ROMAGNA**

After passing through **Palagano**, a town in the verdant area of Frignano, the riders will take in a 3rd category climb up to **Montemolino** (933 m). The route passes the intersection leading to **Polinago**, a town with many ancient military fortifications, and dives towards **Mocogno**, a frazione of **Lama Mocogno**, against the lovely backdrop of the majestic Monte Cimone.

KM 155

**SASSOSTORNO > MODENA > EMILIA-ROMAGNA**

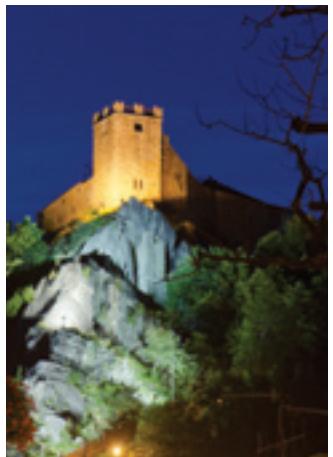
**Sassostorno** was the birthplace of Romeo Venturelli (1938-2011). He was a professional rider from 1960 to 1973, but he failed to live up to initial expectations and based on his potential, he could have achieved much more.

FINISH

**SESTOLA > MODENA > EMILIA-ROMAGNA**

After taking in a short ascent up the 2nd category Colle Passerino climb (1,052 m), the route eventually heads for the finish. **Sestola** is a busy and popular destination for summer and, especially, winter tourism, lying at the foot of Monte Cimone, the highest peak of the Northern Apennines (2,165 m). The area is the perfect venue for a wide range of sporting activities, including mountain biking and hiking. The beautiful **Lago della Ninfa**, near Passo del Lupo, is a natural lake surrounded by beech woods that offers cross-country skiing facilities, and attracts large crowds of tourists. Equally noteworthy is the **"Esperia" Alpine botanical garden**. The old town centre has grown around the ancient fortress, which was said to be an "impregnable" stronghold. The beautiful religious and civil architectural heritage deserves a mention.

This will be the fourth Giro d'Italia stage finishing here. In 1971, victory went to the Spaniard José Manuel Fuente along the challenging Pian del Falco climb; in 2014, the Dutchman Peter Weening won in Passo del Lupo, and in 2016 Giulio Ciccone sealed his first Giro stage win.



The Castle of Sestola.

# EMILIA ROMAGNA

Emilia Romagna: a thousand different holiday opportunities in one. From the rarefied and charming atmosphere of the 10 art cities, a treasure chest of history and culture, with Parma, Piacenza and Reggio Emilia designated as Italian Culture Capitals for 2020+21, to the unspoilt nature of the Apennines – a dreamlike location for ski enthusiasts in the wintertime, and a perfect spot for trekking and outdoor activities in the summertime – you will be spoilt for choice. Not to mention the timeless charm of the **Motor Valley** and its historical brands (**Ducati, Ferrari, Maserati, Lamborghini** and **Pagani**), the Adriatic Riviera of Emilia Romagna (with beaches stretching for 110 kilometres), Europe's largest amusement park district, the Wellness Valley, along with top-rated dance clubs and restaurants where you can experience the taste of traditional seafood cuisine. Spa lovers may choose between 24 centres in 19 different locations, either charming seaside towns or cosy traditional villages nestled in the Apennines, offering wellness treatments, fitness programs, cleansing treatments and much more. Cuisine is king in this region, boasting no less than 44 traditional products registered as Protected designations of origin (PDO) or Protected geographical indications (PGI), such as **Prosciutto di Parma** and **Parmigiano Reggiano**, **Lambrusco** and **Aceto Balsamico Tradizionale** di Modena e Reggio Emilia. Culinary highlights also include several Michelin starred restaurants (one 3-star, two 2-star and 18 one-star restaurants from Piacenza to Cattolica), **Parma** as UNESCO's City of Gastronomy, and the new FICO agri-food park in Bologna. Moreover, Emilia Romagna hosts countless international events every year, such as the **Festival Verdi** in Parma, celebrating the famous opera composer, and the **Ravenna Festival**, held in the mosaic-capital. Motorsports enthusiasts will have their pick as well, with the "**Octo Grand Prix** of San Marino and the Riviera of Rimini", held on the Misano World Circuit "Marco Simoncelli" in Misano Adriatico near Rimini, and the "**Gran Premio dell'Emilia-Romagna e della Riviera di Rimini**" (introduced in September 2020). From two to four wheels, on 1 November (after 14 years), Formula 1 will be back at the Autodromo Enzo e Dino Ferrari in Imola for the Formula 1 Emirates Gran Premio dell'Emilia-Romagna. Major events also include **Arte Fiera** in Bologna, one of the leading contemporary art fairs, the **IRONMAN** in Cervia, one of the world's most popular triathlon events, and the **Notte Rosa**, the grandest summer festival in Italy.

**Visit Romagna, a new holiday destination.** Tourism has taken a more experience-driven route, and people are increasingly interested in exploring different areas of local life – from food to nature, from sports and wellness to art and culture. As a result, the strategies to promote tourism are evolving as well, and Emilia Romagna is changing gear to adapt its governance tools to the requirements of these novel travellers. The new tourism act (4/2016) changes focus from "products" (coastline, Spa centres, art cities and Apennines) to "destinations". Individual territories are engaged in coordinating their tourist services, with a diverse holiday offer comprising the major regional assets in an all-inclusive travel experience, from the Motor Valley to art and culture, through food, wellness, nature, sports and much more. Three tourist destinations ("Destinazioni Turistiche") have been identified to date: Visit Romagna (comprising the provincial territories

of Rimini, Ravenna, Forlì-Cesena and Ferrara), the Metropolitan City of Bologna (which also includes Modena) and lastly, Emilia (including Reggio Emilia, Parma and Piacenza). Different ways to vacation in a single, yet diverse, tourist offer. With the **Via Emilia** and its 2,200 years of history serving as a link – a symbolic “satellite navigator” to explore a thousand different facets of the territory, from the most popular ones to the most innovative experiences of slow tourism.

The four provinces and the 97 municipalities (including 12 coastal ones) of Destinazione Romagna account for approximately 30 million staying tourists and 6.5 million visiting tourists every year. Its accommodation capacity, including hotels and other facilities, yearly and seasonally, includes 6,031 facilities, approximately 60% of the overall regional figures (10,088 facilities, totalling 464,953 bed-places), including 4,318 (accounting for 331,184 bed-places overall) in seaside towns and 1,713 (33,660 bed-places) in the inland areas and in the Apennines, increasing by 582 facilities both along the coast and inland over the past year alone. Increasing the region's potential of tourist attraction are 12 Spa centres, 2 ski areas, 1,500 km of cycle tracks, one international racetrack, 9 golf clubs, 181 museums and collections, 4 exhibition halls (with I.E.G. SPA, formerly Rimini Fiera, ranking second nationwide by revenue, and first by number of events), one authority of the port system of the Northern-Central Adriatic Sea, 4 regional ports and 4 municipal ports, one international airport, 2,250 restaurants, pizza parlours and trattorias, 3,700 retail and catering businesses, including bars, cafeterias, pubs and brewpubs, wine bars, 145 hangouts (including discos, dance clubs and dance bars), 135 cinemas and theatres. A unique natural tourist district, merging art and culture (from the UNESCO-listed mosaics in Ravenna, to the art city of Ferrara, from the Biblioteca Malatestiana in Cesena to Faenza and its ceramic art, not to mention Rimini, with Federico Fellini and its Roman and Renaissance heritage), nature and activity holidays (along the 110 km of the Riviera Romagnola, with 1,400 fully equipped beach resorts, the Apennines offering countless opportunities for trekking and hiking, and the picturesque landscape of the Po delta), and a uniquely wide variety of wines and foods (from piadina romagnola, through premium seafood, to PDO and PGI produce), 26 theme and water parks (the highest concentration in Europe, employing over 2,500 staff members at full capacity, with over 3.6 million visitors), and an innovative Wellness Valley, with a diverse offering for action-packed holidays, while enjoying nature, good food and genuine hospitality. All of this is complemented by a rich events calendar all year long, from music festivals to art exhibitions, from food festivals to international sporting events such as MotoGP races at the Misano Adriatico circuit, or the IRONMAN event in Cervia, as well as the Notte Rosa, the grandest summer festival in Italy.

*text provided by the region*



05

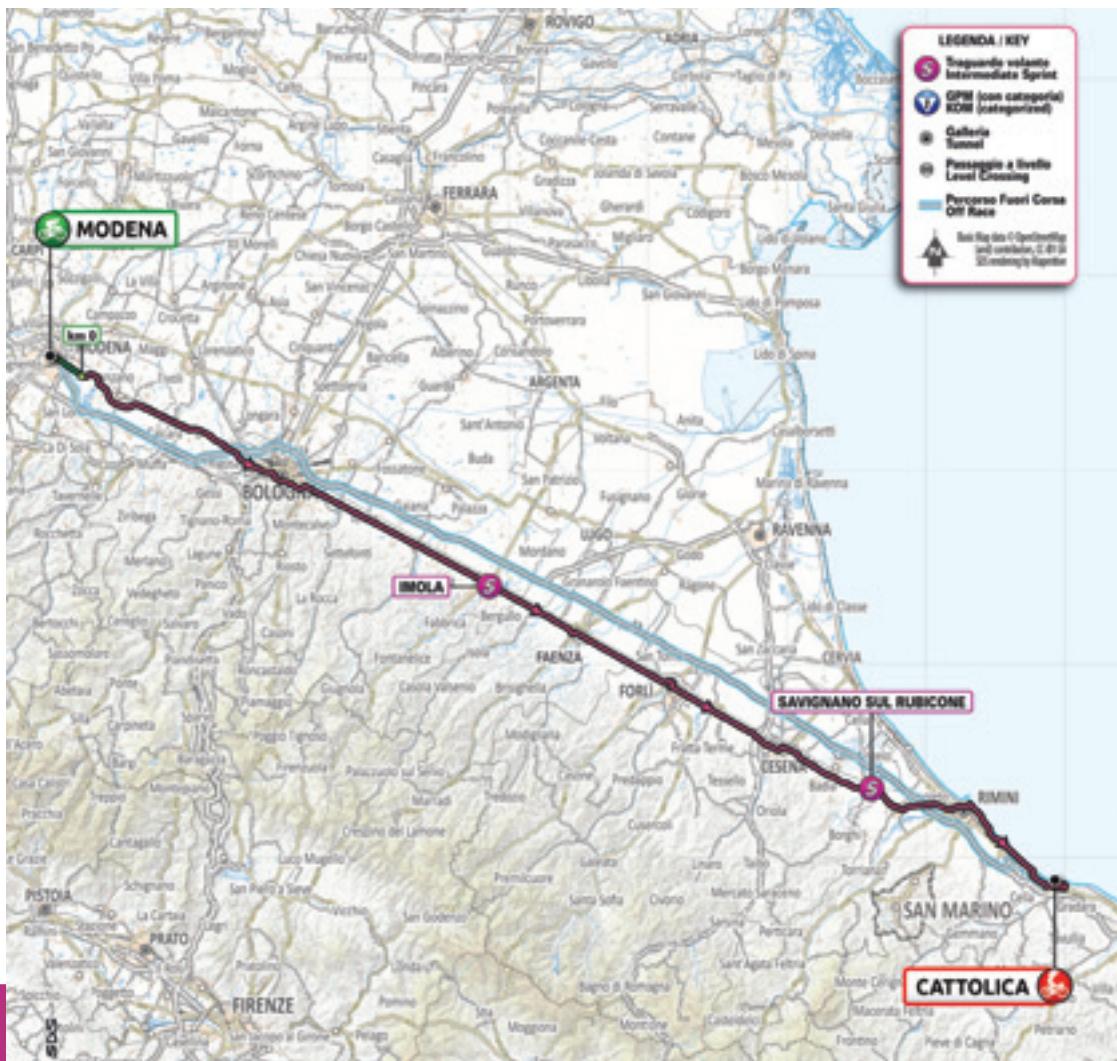
# MODENA – CATTOLICA

KM 177



12.05.2021  
WEDNESDAY

## MODENA - CATTOLICA



After a taste of the Apennine climbs in the stage finishing in Sestola the previous day, the 2021 Giro d'Italia is back in the valley, an authentic plain, during the relatively short Modena-Cattolica stage still in Emilia-Romagna. A field sprint along the s.s. 9, the renowned Via Emilia, is expected, as the whole route does not even include an overpass to "enrich" a totally flat stage.



## START



**MODENA** ➤ **MODENA** ➤ **EMILIA-ROMAGNA**

**Modena** is a historic city in the heart of the Po Valley, rich in outstanding monuments and an ancient university. For centuries it was the capital of the Este Duchy. Major landmarks include the **Cathedral**, a masterpiece of Romanesque architecture with its splendid iconic bell tower, aka the **Ghirlandina**. The nearby **Piazza Grande** is overlooked by the **Palazzo Comunale**, showcasing valuable artworks, and the famous wooden bucket that was the subject of Alessandro Tassoni's (1565-1635) comic poem. The Cathedral, the Torre Civica and Piazza Grande were listed as "UNESCO World Heritage" in 1997.

The **Ducal Palace**, in Piazza Roma, is the majestic royal palace of the Estensi and, since 1862, the seat of the prestigious Military Academy. The **Palazzo dei Musei**, in a grand 18th century building, houses admirable collections, including the outstanding **Galleria Estense** and **Estense Library**, with invaluable masterpieces. The Renaissance **church of San Pietro** is also worth a visit.

The city and surrounding area are well-known for companies such as the iconic Ferrari in Maranello, Maserati and other important manufacturers along with the traditional, increasingly popular, gastronomic sector: sausages, meats, various kinds of pasta, wines, and balsamic vinegar. Enzo Ferrari (1898-1988), well-known singers such as Caterina Caselli, Francesco Guccini, and the tenor Luciano Pavarotti (1935-2007) are all natives of the city.



*The Cathedral in Modena, with the "Ghirlandina" bell tower.*



*The Ducal Palace in Modena, the seat of the Military Academy.*

Modena hosted Giro d'Italia stage finishes in 1928 - when Domenico Piemontesi claimed the victory; in 1940 - when Fausto Coppi won the stage and the maglia rosa at his first giro; in 1949 (Oreste Conte); in 1953 (Fiorenzo Magni won the mass start stage and Bianchi the team time trial on the following day); in 1961 (Rik Van Looy); in 1974 (Patrick Sercu); in 1985 (Daniel Gisiger) and in 2019 (Arnaud Démare). The Vandelli brothers - Claudio (1961), the 1984 Olympic team time trial champion in Los Angeles, and Maurizio (1964) - were born here.

KM 35



## BOLOGNA ➤ BOLOGNA ➤ EMILIA-ROMAGNA

Then comes a long route section across **Bologna** and its surroundings, Borgo Panigale - an area with the Guglielmo Marconi airport, Ducati, the Fabbri confectionery factory, and numerous other firms. The stage route actually runs along the Via Emilia.



The city, founded in the Etruscan era as Felsina and later called Bononia during the Roman era, has always been a strategic communication hub between central and northern Italy. It is based on important cultural, economic, and industrial activities.



The heart of Bologna is the spectacular **Piazza Maggiore**, where the **cathedral of San Petronio**, the city's patron saint, is a splendid example of Gothic architecture with three naves and fine works of art. The square is bordered by **Palazzo dei Banchi**, **Palazzo dei Notai** and the city hall, **Palazzo Accursio**. The bronze statues by Giambologna characterizes the nearby **Piazza del Nettuno**. The **Pinacoteca Nazionale** is a major national art gallery, and one of the city's distinctive features are its 22 surviving towers, including the nearby **Torre degli Asinelli** (97.20m) and **Torre Garisenda** (48.16m), both dating to the 12th century and named after the families that had them built. Other main sights include the **Palazzo del Podestà**, the **Palazzo di Re Enzo** and the **Archiginnasio**, formerly the seat of the ancient university that earned the city the epithet "learned".



*Piazza Maggiore in Bologna.*

The great Baroque **Basilica of the Madonna di San Luca**, sitting atop the Colle della Guardia, is a popular destination for cyclists. Its arcades - the longest in the world, 3798m with 666 arches - climb along the ascent from the district of Bologna's historic stadium, a football club that won seven champi-



*The Sanctuary of Madonna di San Luca, Bologna.*

onships when it was “the great team that made the world shiver.”

Bologna is also known as the “fat city” due to the excellence of its cuisine, which extensively uses pork and egg pasta, including tagliatelle with meat sauce, tortellini and lasagne. Mortadella Bologna IGP (Protected Geographical Indication) is one of the local sausages.

Bologna was the birthplace of Luigi Galvani (1737-1798) - a doctor, physicist and scientist, Guglielmo Marconi (1874-1937) - Nobel Prize winner for physics in 1909, the painter Giorgio Morandi (1890-1984), the multifaceted Pier Paolo Pasolini (1922-1975), and the singer-songwriter Lucio Dalla (1943-2012).

Bologna, in its long history, also hosted the initial stage finish of the first Giro d’Italia in 1909: the 397km Milan-Bologna stage was won by Dario Beni. The long-lasting bond between the Corsa Rosa and Bologna is testified by several stage starts and 24 stage finishes it hosted. Many finishes here were won by champions, with episodes that have gone down in cycling history, especially when the finish line was on the San Luca hill. In 1994 and 2019, the Giro d’Italia kicked off here. A number of leading figures in cycling come from Bologna and top races are organized here.

## KM 40

### ○ S.LAZZARODISAVENA ➤ BOLOGNA ➤ EMILIA-ROMAGNA

The route then passes **San Lazzaro di Savena**, a populous area with several churches, patrician villas, and a highly developed industrial area. It was the birthplace of the comedian Andrea Roncato (1947) and the Pro rider Arnaldo Benfenati, who won the U23 World Championship in the pursuit in Paris in 1947 and the silver medal in the pursuit quartet at the 1948 Olympic Games in London with Rino Pucci, Guido Bernardi, and Anselmo Citterio.

## KM 60

### ○ CASTEL SAN PIETRO TERME ➤ BOLOGNA ➤ EMILIA-ROMAGNA

The route then passes **Castel San Pietro Terme**, with the Cassero fortress, the town’s symbol, and the old thermal baths from 1870. The town is the birthplace of the motorbike racer Loris Capirossi (1973) and the actress Luisa Ferida, pseudonym of Luigia Manfrini Farné (1914-Milan 1945), who was executed with her husband and colleague Osvaldo Valenti for collaborating with the Nazi-Fascists.

KM 70



## IMOLA &gt; BOLOGNA &gt; EMILIA-ROMAGNA

And the peloton comes to **Imola**, a beautiful and historic city sitting on the banks of the Santerno. It is an important industrial, commercial and third-sector centre characterized by many cooperatives, with over 70,000 inhabitants. Ceramics and artistic terracotta are its distinctive manufacturing industry. The major landmarks of this pleasant city include the **Rocca Sforzesca**, the **Cathedral of San Cassiano**, the **Bishop's Palace**, and the **Autodrome** named after Enzo and Dino Ferrari.



*The cathedral in Imola, dedicated to St Cassiano.*

Cycling is at home here. First of all, with the classic Coppa Placci race; then with the 1968 World Championship won by Vittorio Adorni after a long breakaway, and with the "patriarch" Nino Ceroni as a driving force in race organization. The World Championship was arranged here again in 2020, in a very short time, thanks to the skillful and determined efforts of the 2013 Nuova Placci organization – the same of the Giro d'Italia Giovani U23 – and the local authorities. The 2020 Road World Champion was Julian Alaphilippe.

The city hosted a Giro d'Italia stage finish in 1968 with a winning sprint by Marino Basso. Other stage winners here were: Roberto Pagnin in 1992, Russia's Ilnur Zakarin in 2015, and Ireland's Sam Bennet in 2018. In two Italian Championships here the victory went to Piermattia Gavazzi in 1988 and Filippo Pozzato in 2009. Diego Ronchini (1935-2003), a professional for about fifteen years, was from Imola, just like Dante Rivola (1926-2000) – a Giro del Lazio and a Trofeo Matteotti winner, and Roberto Pelliconi (1962) – two-time Italian U23 champion and later a Pro rider.

In other sports we recall the motorbike racer Fausto Gresini (1961-Bologna2021) – a two-time world champion who passed away recently, Gancarlo Marocchi (1965) – a good football player who now works as a tv commentator, and Stefano Domenicali – former manager at Ferrari's and now a Formula 1 executive officer.

KM 85



## FAENZA &gt; RAVENNA &gt; EMILIA-ROMAGNA

The route reaches **Faenza**, another city of ceramics (of which it houses the museum), with a nice medieval layout and the beautiful **Piazza del Popolo** and **Piazza della Libertà**. This city has strong ties with cycling. Just to name a few: Vito Ortelli (1921-2017), an excellent Pro rider, with many other important professionals, such as coach Davide Cassani who was born on 1 January 1961 and is still living here. Evangelista Torricelli (1608-1647) – a mathematician and physicist in-



Piazza del Popolo in Faenza.

volved in the invention of the barometer, Alfredo Oriani (1852-1909) – a writer who was one of the first to praise the bicycle. The politicians Pietro Nenni (1891-1980) and Benigno Zaccagnini (1912-1989) were also natives of Faenza.

The Giro stages finishing in Faenza were won by Michele Dancelli in 1970, the Norwegian Kurt Arvesen in 2003, and Leonardo Bertagnolli in 2009.

## KM 100

### FORLÌ > FORLÌ-CESENA > EMILIA-ROMAGNA

The route then enters the province of Forlì-Cesena, touching **Forlì**, in the centre of Romagna. In the city, with 120,000 inhabitants, the very tall bell tower of the iconic Romanesque **church of San Mercuriale** stands out. The spacious **Piazza Saffi** – dedicated to a patriot and politician from Forlì – is bordered by several typical brick buildings. Other major landmarks include the **cathedral of Santa Croce** and the recently restored **monumental Complex of San Domenico** that hosts many cultural events and exhibitions. Wide avenues lead off from the medieval centre.

Forlì was home to Aldo Garzanti (1883-1961) – a publisher, the Fabbri brothers (Giovanni, Dino, and Rino) that founded (1969) and ran the publishing house of the same name, and Tullio Morgagni (1881-1919), a journalist of the *Gazzetta dello Sport* and one of the founders of the Giro d'Italia. The stadium is named after him and has an indoor track dedicated to Glauco Servadei. Ercole Baldini, an all-round champion, sums up and symbolizes the many cycling notables in Forlì.

Forlì hosted a stage finish nine times, with victories going to Girardengo (1926), Alfredo Binda (1928), Learco Guerra (1930), Bini (1937), Glauco Servadei from Forlì (1939), Rik Van Looy (1960), Maertens (1977), Mc Ewen (2006), and Boem (2015).

## KM 110

### FORLIMPOPOLI > FORLÌ-CESENA > EMILIA-ROMAGNA

Past Ronco, the route runs across **Forlimpopoli**, with its **Rocca Albornoziana**, a historic complex that is now the town hall. Pellegrino Artusi (1820-1911) – considered as the founder of Italian cuisine and author of "Science in the Kitchen and the Art of Eating Well", and the motorbike racer Andrea Dovizioso (1986) were born here.



KM 120



## CESENA ➤ FORLÌ-CESENA ➤ EMILIA-ROMAGNA

*The Rocca Malatestiana in Cesena.*

The lawyer Giuseppe Ambrosini (1886-1980) - a historic figure in cycling and the chief-editor of the *Gazzetta dello Sport* from 1950 until the early 1960s - lived here for a long time in his 'buen retiro' on the Settecrociari hill. He had been the race director of the Giro and some classics, and his book "Prendi la bicicletta e vai" was the first cycling compendium based on scientific foundations. Cesena hosted three stage finishes with the victories going to Olimpio Bizzi in 1948, Emanuele Sella in 2004, and Alessandro Bertolini in 2008

Marco Pantani (1970-Rimini 2004), Guido Neri (1939) - the 1964 winner of the first Trofeo Laigueglia - and Azeglio Vicini (1933-Brescia 2018) - football player, coach and head coach of the Italian national team - were natives of the city.

KM 140



## S. ARCANGELO DI ROMAGNA ➤ RIMINI ➤ EMILIA-ROMAGNA

The route reaches **Sant'Arcangelo di Romagna**, a highly populated town with interesting monuments in its oldest part sitting atop a hill.

It was the birthplace of Tonino Guerra (1920-2012) - a famous poet, writer, playwright and painter, Raffaello Baldini (1824-Milan 2005) - a writer, and Pope Clement XIV (1705-1774), as well as the actors Fabio De Luigi and Daniele Lutazzi, and Alfio Vandi (1955) - a climber and a cyclist that, at his debut in the Pro category, was the first-ever winner of the Best Young Rider classification (the white jersey), introduced in the Giro in 1976. He raced professionally until 1988.

KM 150

## RIMINI > RIMINI > EMILIA-ROMAGNA

And now comes **Rimini**, the main city of the province with 150,000 inhabitants; a nationally and internationally renowned seaside resort at all times. The extensive 15-km Adriatic coastline is studded with hotels and accommodation facilities for seaside tourism from all over the world as well as conference and exhibition tourism. Many attractions characterize the low hills and plains surrounding the city, including food and wine specialties, nature, and culture. Rimini boasts a rich history, with monuments such as the **Arch of Augustus**, the **Bridge of Tiberius** (starting and/or finishing point of the Via Emilia) dating back to the Roman Imperial era, and the **amphitheatre**. Main highlights also include the **Tempio Malatestiano** by Leon Battista Alberti (1404-1472). The city also has many parks and other outstanding civil and religious buildings. Among the celebrities from Rimini, the most notable are: Federico Fellini (1920 - Rome 1993) - winner of four Oscars who often portrayed Rimini in his films; Sergio Zavoli (Ravenna 1923 - Rome 2020) - a journalist, writer and politician who grew up in Rimini, conceived and hosted the cult broadcast "Processo alla tappa" (the original and the only authentic one, you might say), and Sergio Neri (1934) - a prestigious figure in sports and cycling in particular.



The Tempio Malatestiano by Leon Battista Alberti in Rimini.

KM 160

## RICCIONE > RIMINI > EMILIA-ROMAGNA

The race approaches **Riccione**, another famous and sophisticated town, a popular destination for seaside tourism. Nice buildings surrounded by parks and gardens make it a typical garden-city, which has also earned the nickname of "the green pearl of the Adriatic Sea".

The modern **Palazzo dei Congressi**, a conference venue, is outstanding and the **Oltremare park** with a variety of attractions as well as its long maritime tradition is worth



The popular Viale Ceccarini in Riccione.



the visit. Riccione, with its network of cycleways is a bike-friendly town and is involved in a variety of riding events. Its very popular **Viale Ceccarini** has also been praised in a hit song from the 1970s by Bologna's songwriter Dino Sarti.

## KM 165



### MISANO ADRIATICO ➤ RIMINI ➤ EMILIA-ROMAGNA

The route runs through **Misano Adriatico**, another popular seaside resort with special street furniture on the seafront and other attractions, including the Misano World Circuit 'Marco Simoncelli', in the hamlet of San Monica, at the gate of the town. It is dedicated to the beloved but unlucky MotoGP rider from Coriano, aka Sic or SuperSic, the exuberant winner of a 250cc World Championship who was born in nearby Cattolica (1987- Sepang/Malaysia 2011).

## FINISH



### CATTOLICA ➤ RIMINI ➤ EMILIA-ROMAGNA



**Cattolica**, founded in 1271 on the border with the Marche region, is the southernmost tip of the Po Valley. It now has more than 16,000 inhabitants, and in its surrounding area the ruins of a Roman building and other artifacts from earlier periods have been found and are now on display in the **museo della Regina** with other finds testifying the local seafaring tradition.

The Le Navi Aquarium in Cattolica is an interesting and popular "Sea Park", the second-largest in Italy after Genoa's.

The **Multipurpose Cultural Centre**, by the architect Pier Luigi Cervellati, provides many services and overlooks Piazza della Repubblica, a large circular space for open-air shows. Main sights include the **Malatesta Fortress** (1490) and other civil and religious buildings. The town is an important fishing port with boatyards and other related activities.

Cattolica first hosted a stage finish in 1957, with the Belgian André Vluyen's victory. In 1958 Guido Carlesi from Pisa won the stage, and in 1978 the Belgian Rik Van Linden claimed the win with a field sprint. A mass sprint is most likely in 2021 as well.



*The seafront in Cattolica*



Ovunque, in bici. Dalle spiagge dorate dal sole estivo alle foreste ombrOSE dell'Appennino.  
Dalle città d'arte, di storia e di sapori ai borghi antichi immersi tra colli e filari. Dai crinali di calanchi alle pianure ammantate di bruma.  
In bici, #inEmiliaRomagna, lo spettacolo è ovunque.

# #inEMILIAROMAGNA

## *In bici lo spettacolo è ovunque*



 **RegioneEmilia-Romagna**

# NOTE

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



06

# GROTTE DI FRASASSI – ASCOLI PICENO (SAN GIACOMO)

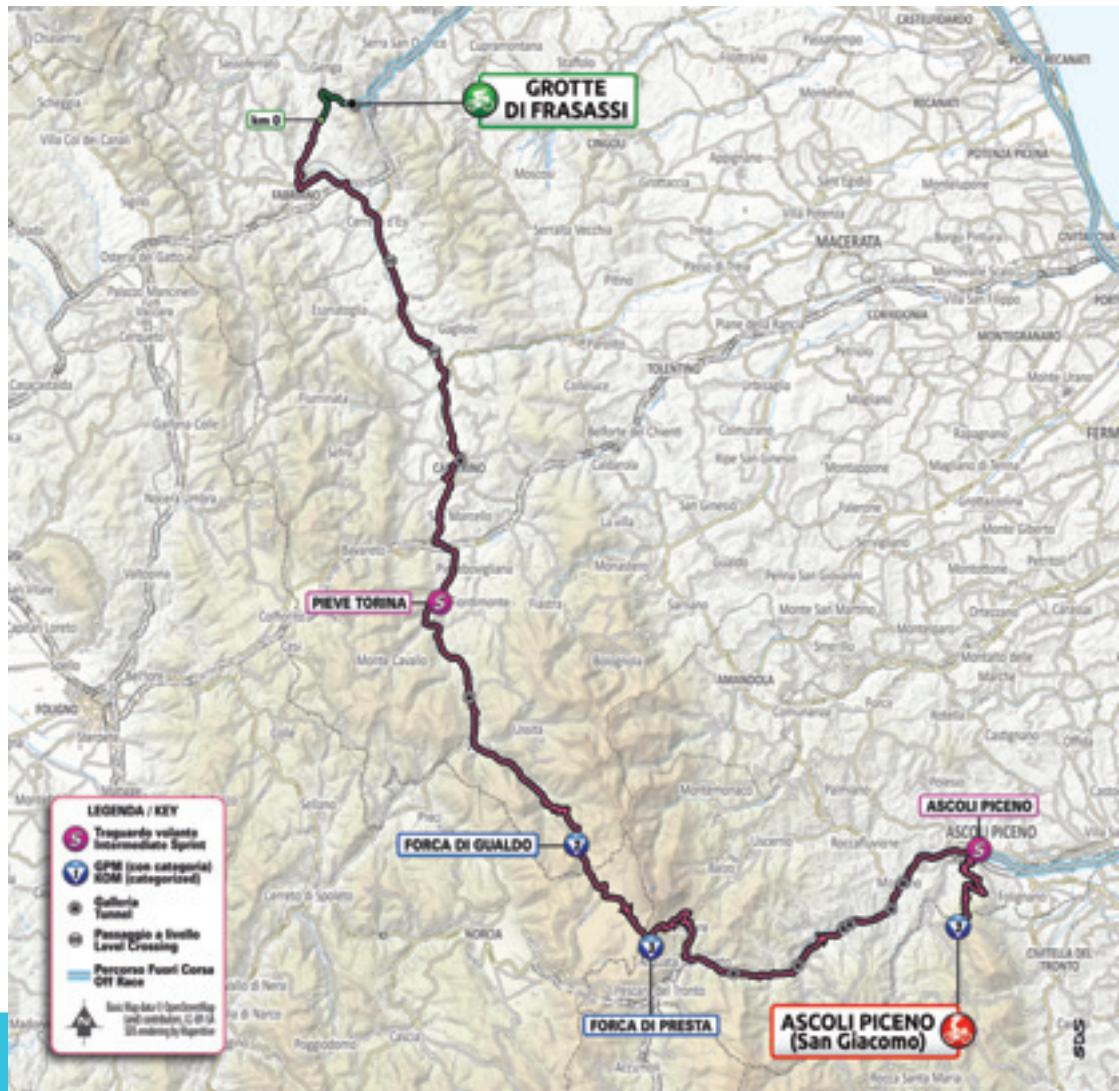
**KM 160**



13.05.2021  
**THURSDAY**



## GROTTE DI FRASASSI - ASCOLI PICENO (SAN GIACOMO)



This relatively short stage runs almost entirely within the Marche, with just a minor detour to Umbria. The profile is rugged and wavy. This is a region where the roads, with the exception of the coastal road along the Adriatic Sea, are never perfectly flat. The so-called "pianura marchigiana" is actually lumpy and dotted with constant undulations, if not with sharp "walls".



## START



## GROTTE DI FRASASSI (GENGA) ➤ ANCONA ➤ MARCHE

Making its debut as Giro d'Italia stage location, Genga is a town in the province of Ancona, some 5 kilometres away from a stunning cave complex **called the Grotte di Frasassi** (Frasassi Caves). Discovered 50 years ago, on 25 September 1971, by the Gruppo Speleologico Marchigiano CAI of Ancona, this **is the largest and most famous** karst cave system **in Italy, extending for over 20 kilometres**. Inside, the caves have a constant temperature of 14 degrees and a relative humidity of nearly 100%. The caves were carved by river Sentino over the millennia. Inside, they hold stunning natural formations such as stalactites and stalagmites, respectively hanging from the cave ceiling or rising from the cave floor.



The Frasassi Caves.

**Genga** has a population of approximately 1,700. Its large territory, located within the "Parco Naturale Regionale della Gola della Rossa e di Frasassi", holds a valuable architectural heritage that includes the **San Vittore alle Chiuse Abbey** (a masterpiece

of Romanesque architecture), the beautiful **Neoclassical Temple**, also referred to as the **Temple of Valadier**, and the **Santa Maria Infra Saxa hermitage**. The **museum of Genga** holds valuable 15-century artworks by Antonio da Fabriano. Local cuisine offers a wealth of traditional specialties, including excellent cold cuts that pair perfectly with the local rye bread, tagliatelle, "crescia" (a sort of flatbread cooked in embers) or "vincisgrassi" (traditional pasta bake). Notable natives include Pope Leo XII, born Annibale della Genga Sermattein (1760-Rome 1829), who was crowned as pontiff in 1823.



The splendid Neoclassical Temple, also called the Temple of Valadier.



KM 25

## MATELICA > MACERATA > MARCHE

Shortly after the start, the route enters the province of Macerata, passing through **Matelica**. The town has a population of around 10,000. It rises in a prominent position on a rocky outcrop of the Valle dell'Esino, against the backdrop of the majestic Umbro-Marchean Apennines. The urban layout reflects its long and rich history, with valuable architectural heritage that includes the **Co-Cathedral of San Maria Assunta**, the **church of San Francesco** and many other churches, as well as elegant civil buildings such as the **Town Hall** and the **Governor's Palace**, with its adjacent civic tower. Special mention should be made of the **Museo Piersanti**, a rich collection of artworks housed inside a beautiful 15-century building. Main sights also include the central **Piazza Mattei**, with its beautiful fountain, and the **Teatro Giuseppe Piermarini**. Every year, the town hosts a popular International Folklore Festival. Local economy used to rely mainly on agriculture, but now it centres on a varied array of industries, and especially on the commercial sector. This is also a lively winemaking area, with fine produce including Verdicchio (white) and Esino (white and red) wines.

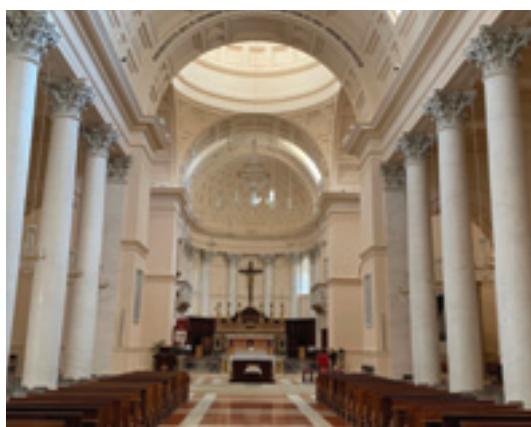


*The central Piazza Mattei, in Matelica.*

KM 45

## CAMERINO > MACERATA > MARCHE

Perched on a gentle hill, and nestled between the Monti Sibillini and Monte San Vicino, **Camerino** is the seat of a famous university. The lovely mediaeval traits and the valuable historical and artistic heritage of the old town suffered extensive damage from the earthquakes that struck Umbria and the Marche in 1997, and later in August 2016, shattering houses, shops and other buildings. Major religious buildings include the **Cathedral**, the **Basilica of San Venanzio**, the **church of San Filippo**, housing a beautiful altarpiece by Giambattista Tiepolo, and the **monas-**



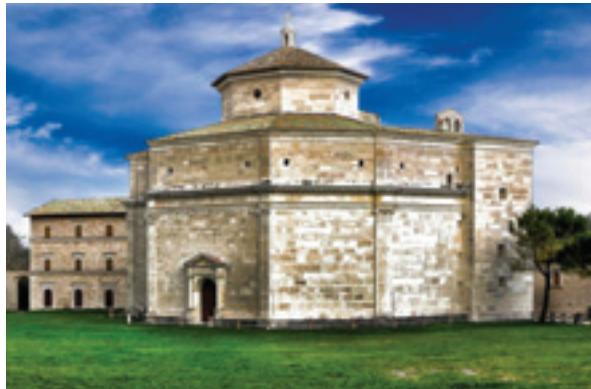
*The interior of the Basilica of San Venanzio, in Camerino.*

**tery of Santa Chiara.** The most outstanding examples of civil architecture include the **Ducal Palace** (currently the seat of the university), the Renaissance **Archbishop's Palace**, the **Museo Diocesano** (housing a collection of valuable paintings), the **Borgia Fortress** and the city gates along the city walls.

KM 70

## VISSO ➤ MACERATA ➤ MARCHE

**Visso**, next along the route, is a lovely town of the Val Nerina, rightfully included in the association of the most beautiful villages of Italy (Club dei Borghi più belli d'Italia). Major architectural landmarks include the Romanesque-Gothic 13-century **collegiate church of Santa Maria**, the civic **Museum and Art Gallery**, and the Renaissance **sanctuary of Macereto**, designed by Bramante.



The Sanctuary of Macereto, near Visso.

KM 95

## CASTELLUCCIO ➤ PERUGIA ➤ UMBRIA

The route takes a short detour into Umbria, through **Castelluccio** (a frazione of Norcia). The town, rising on a hilltop, overlooking the plateau below, suffered extensive damage from recent earthquakes. Flowers are a key feature of the landscape. Here, poppies, cornflowers and daisies bloom in early summer, bursting with colours. This is an area of cattle raising and agriculture. Major produce include the prized "lenticchie di Castelluccio di Norcia" (lentils), which have received PGI (Protected Geographical Indication) status.

KM 100

## FORCA DI PRESTA ➤ ASCOLI PICENO ➤ MARCHE

As the route goes back to the Marche, and specifically to the province of Ascoli Piceno, the riders will take in a 3rd category climb up to Forca di Presta (1,536 m), at the foot of Monte Vettore. Rising to 2,476 metres, it is the tallest peak of the Monti Sibillini (Sibylline Mountains), a mountain ridge that is named after the fairies that, according to a medieval myth, used to dwell in the Sibyl's cave in the Apennines.

KM 115

## ARQUATA DEL TRONTO ➤ ASCOLI PICENO ➤ MARCHE

The route descends into **Arquata del Tronto**, along the Via Salaria, a peaceful holiday destination among the gentle rolling hills, with the beautiful **Rocca** and the mediaeval fortress rising in a prominent position.

KM 145

## ASCOLI PICENO ➤ ASCOLI PICENO ➤ MARCHE

**Ascoli Piceno** has a neat mediaeval urban layout, which was later refitted in the Renaissance. It has a remarkable architectural heritage as the noble and historical capital of the ancient Picentes people, which comprises houses, buildings, churches, bridges and towers made largely from travertine.

Main sights in the monumental **Piazza Arringo** include the **Duomo**, dedicated to San Emidio, the **Bishop's Palace**, the **Baptistery** and other elegant buildings. The beautiful **Piazza del Popolo** is lined with elegant buildings and arcades dating back to the Renaissance. Main sights here include the **Palazzo dei Capitani del Popolo**, the Gothic **church of San Francesco**, the elegant **Loggia dei Mercanti** and the legendary Caffè Meletti. Towers and bridges are the hallmarks of the city. Major landmarks also include the **Forte Malatesta** (that was restored into a multi-purpose museum complex), and the **Fortezza Pia**. Rising in the tallest part of the town, the fortress was rebuilt in 1560 as requested by Pope Pius IV. Major events include the popular Quintana, a historical re-enactment of a medieval jousting tournament, as well as theatrical performances and cultural events. The city is a leading and varied industrial pole, with great emphasis on tourism, services and handicraft. The iconic "olive all'ascolana", tasty nibbles of meat-stuffed, breaded and fried green olives, are the hallmark of local cuisine. Ascoli Piceno was the birthplace of three leading figures in the publishing industry: Valentino Silvio Bompiani (1898–Milan 1992, publisher, writer and playwright), Cino Del Duca (Montedinove 1899–Milan 1967, entrepreneur, publisher and movie producer), and Gianni Mazzocchi (1906–Milan 1984, the founder of fifteen successful publications). Speaking of sports, Ascoli was hometown to Giuseppe Iachini (1964, football player and coach), Costantino Rozzi (1929–1994, the lively president of the local football team, who also built a number of stadiums), and to Carlo Vittori



Piazza del Popolo, in Ascoli Piceno.

(1931–2015, sprinter and athletics coach). Finally, Ascoli was the birthplace of the talented actor Massimo Lopez (1952) and of Giancarlo Tomassetti (1945), TV director for the Italian broadcaster RAI, specialising in sports, who supervised the direction of the Giro d'Italia for many years.

The list of Giro d'Italia stage winners in Ascoli Piceno includes Clemente Canepari (1913), Alfredo Binda (1933), Raffaele Di Paco (1938), Guido Bontempi (1988) and Alessandro Petacchi (2004).

## FINISH

### SAN GIACOMO ➤ TERAMO ➤ ABRUZZO

The route follows the lengthy, scenic climb, and passes through the village of **Piagge**. Rising on a large plateau, the hamlet is a popular destination among local sports enthusiasts. Main sights here include the beautiful hermitage of San Marco. The road continues to rise, heading for **San Giacomo**, on the Monti della Laga massif. The climb covers a little more than 15 kilometres. It rises from an altitude of 150 metres (in Ascoli Piceno) to 1,090 metres in San Giacomo, where the riders will contest a 2nd category summit finish by the current border between Abruzzo and the Marche (previously, the frontier between the Papal State and the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies).



The Monte Piselli ski resort at San Giacomo, a hamlet of Valle Castellana.

San Giacomo is located in the area of the so-called Montagna dei Fiori (Monti Gemelli), within the Gran Sasso and Monti della Laga National Park. In 2002, the village was chosen as finish location of stage 13 (Chieti–San Giacomo/Monti della Laga), climbing up from Teramo (along the opposite side). Victory went to Mexico's Julio Perez Cuapio, 53" ahead of Savoldelli. San Giacomo also served as finish location for one stage of the 2007 Tirreno–Adriatico, and for multiple stages of the Trofeo dello Scalatore.

San Giacomo is an iconic climb for local cycling enthusiasts as well, with a steady gradient of around 7%. This area is the perfect venue for a wide range of sporting activities, including skiing in the nearby Monte Piselli ski resort.



# MARCHE

**Marche** (Eng. the Marches) is a region in central Italy that borders Emilia-Romagna and the Republic of San Marino to the north, Tuscany, Umbria and Lazio to the west and Abruzzo to the south. It is washed by the **Adriatic Sea** to the east. Its northern border is marked by the River **Foglia**, and its southern border by the **Tronto**.

The regional capital is **Ancona**. The other provinces are Pesaro-Urbino, Macerata, Fermo and Ascoli Piceno.

The territory is mostly hilly (69%), rising to mountains (for the remaining 31%) with the Apennine chain. The very limited flatlands, statistically irrelevant, cover the narrow strip of land beside the sea. The highest mountain is Mount **Vettore** (2478 m) in the **Sibillini** mountain range, followed by Mount **Nerone** (1526 m) and Mount **Catrica** (1702 m), the latter two also featured on the Giro d'Italia route. Near Ancona is the iconic **Conero promontory**.

The major natural beauty spots of the region include the **Frasassi Caves** and the **Furlo Pass**.

The gentle hills and the brick colour of the beautiful old towns, whose buildings and charm have been carefully preserved, give the region its unmistakable character. The region was created in the 14th century, with borders not far different from the current ones, and it was named 'Marca'.

Ancona, with its port and its relations with the East, experienced times of great prosperity. Urbino, too, now a UNESCO World Heritage Site, was a great international artistic, cultural and architectural centre in the Renaissance. It was the birthplace of the painter Raphael and the architect Donato Bramante. The region joined the Papal State until 1860, when it was annexed by Italy after the Battle of Castelfidardo, near Ancona, after which it became known as Marche.

The economy of the region is based on a flourishing network of small and medium enterprises achieving excellence and international renown in several sectors. These include agriculture, winemaking and fishing, along with tourism along the seaside, in art towns and for winter sports.

The regional cuisine is delicious, with local specialities everywhere, including a wide range of DOC wines.

The most distinctive towns, alongside Urbino, include Ancona; Ascoli Piceno with its old town built mostly of travertine; the university town of Camerino; Fabriano, renowned for its high-quality paper production; Fermo; Jesi, birthplace of the composer Giovan Battista Pergolesi and a capital of fencing; Macerata; Recanati, the birthplace of the great poet Giacomo Leopardi (1798- 1837) and the famous tenor Beniamino Gigli (1890- 1957); Loreto and its majestic Basilica; Castelfidardo, the international capital of accordion builders; San Benedetto del Tronto, with its promenade, the traditional finish-line of the Tirreno-Adriatico.

# NOTE

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

# NOTE

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



07

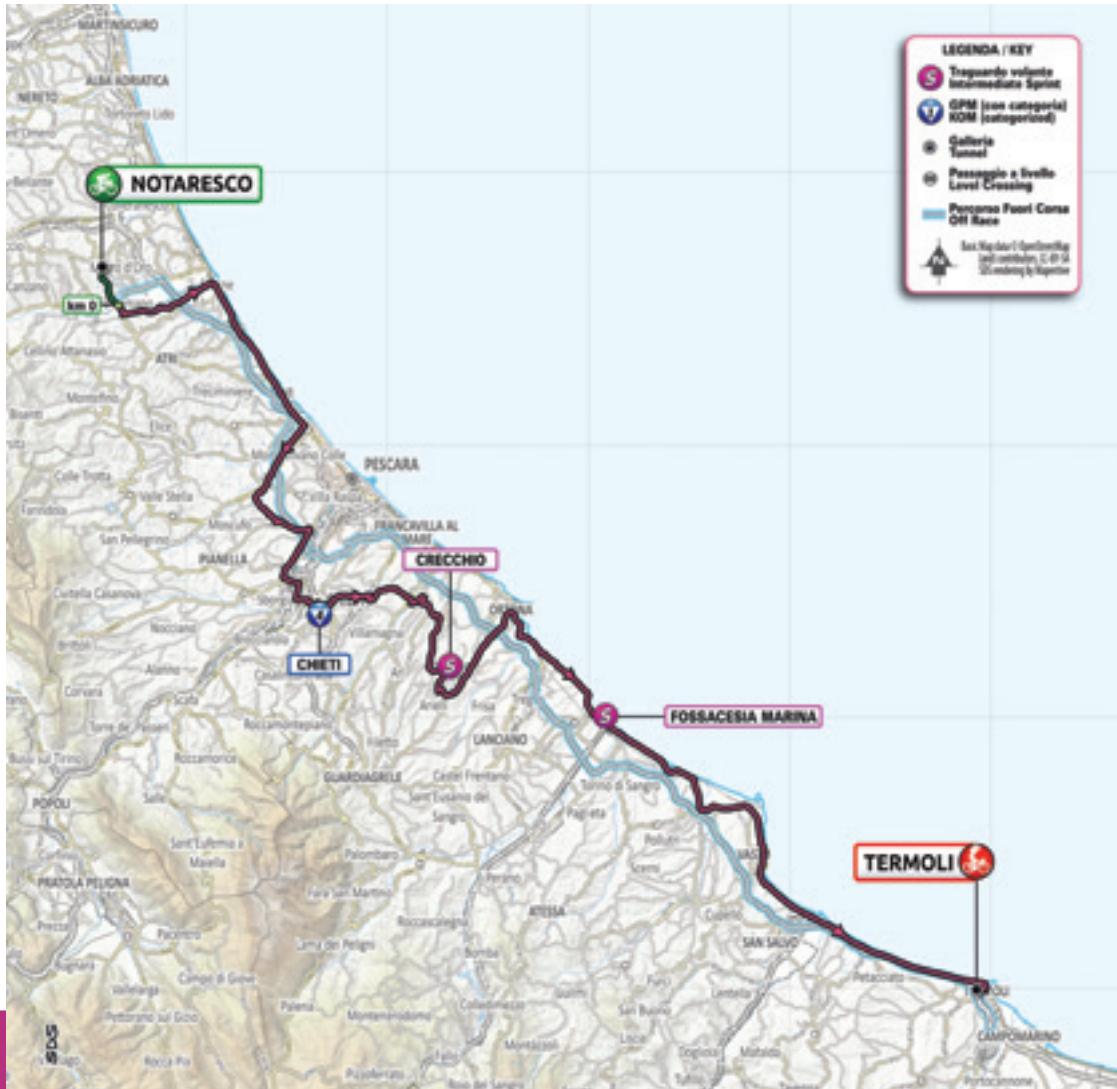
# NOTARESCO – TERMOLI

KM 181



14.05.2021  
**FRIDAY**

## NOTARESCO - TERMOLI



It is one of the stages that, both in its conception and predictions, suit the sprinters, as its route has been designed along Abruzzo's Adriatic coast with the start in the municipal territory of Teramo, then it "curls" inland into the province of Chieti and comes back to the Adriatic sea for the final section with the finish line in Termoli, Molise.



## START



### NOTARESCO > TERAMO > ABRUZZO

**Notaresco**, a town of about 7,000 inhabitants in the province of Teramo, hosts the stage start. It sits in the hills (approx. 270m of altitude) and is part of the Vomano, Fino and Piombino Mountain Community, just 25km away from Teramo, not far from the Adriatic Sea. The area belonged to Lotario, grandson of Charlemagne. Then, in the Middle Ages, the town became important owing to its defensive structure - the **Civitillo** or Rocca del Civitillo. Some traces of it are still visible.

The main landmarks in Notaresco include the **Abbey of San Clemente al Vomano**, recently restored and reopened to the public, a few other Romanesque churches and some typical buildings, such as **Palazzo Acquaviva**, once owned by the Dukes of Atri - the city hall now. Numerous hamlets belong to the city's territory.

It is a fertile agricultural area (cereals, vineyards, and cattle pasture). Furniture manufacturing is a very important sector, and the local gastronomy include tasty traditional dishes. Teramo hosts a stage start for the first time. Then, the route runs through **Scerne**, a seaside hamlet of **Pineto**, a densely populated town named after the large and beautiful pine forest created at the beginning of the twentieth century. In 1930, it got this name instead of Villa Filiani. Teramo is a popular seaside resort that has been granted the 'blue flag' status.

Major landmarks include the parish church of San Agnese and San Silvestro, the church of the Immacolata, **Villa Filiani**, in Eclectic style, which houses the Abruzzo Ethno-Musicological Centre, and the Serrano coastal Watch Tower overlooking a protected marine area.



*The church of San Clemente al Vomano.*

## KM 30



### MONTESILVANO > PESCARA > ABRUZZO

The route then runs into the province of Pescara, touching **Montesilvano**, a town that has undergone a great tourist development on the coast, with hotels and accommodation facilities along its extensive beaches. The historic Montesilvano Colle has an old layout and includes buildings from various periods.



The route turns inland, crossing the territory of Spoltore – home to several professional riders, such as Donato Giuliano, Danilo Di Luca, and Ruggero Marzoli – then, past the villages of **Caprara d'Abruzzo** and **Santa Teresa** it runs across **Villanova**, a hamlet of Cepagatti, where an excellent olive oil is produced. Here the great passion for cycling is testified by many cycling events, such as the Criterium d'Abruzzo – held from 1988 to 2004 – and the stage finish of the Tirreno-Adriatico.

## KM 60



### CHIETI ➤ CHIEDI ➤ ABRUZZO

The route then enters the province of Chieti: it climbs from the industrial area of **Chieti Scalo** up to **Chieti** (30m of altitude), a 4th category climb – the only KOM summit of the stage.



The old city, perched on a hill, is the historic capital of the proud Marrucini people. From here, the view ranges from Gran Sasso to Majella and to the sea. The city's development over time is reflected in many buildings from various eras, including the elegant **cathedral of San Giustino** – the city's patron saint, the **Roman Temples**, the **National Archeological Museum** with its outstanding statue of the "Warrior of Capestrano" from the 4th century BC, the remarkable **Pinacoteca**, and the city's "heart", **CORSO MARRUCINO**.

Chieti was home to Sergio Marchionne (1952-Zurich 2018), an entrepreneur and manager of great stature, and the Pro riders Giulio Ciccone and Gianluca Capitanio, a champion on the track.



*The Cathedral of San Giustino, in Chieti.*

Several Giro d'Italia stages finished here, starting from the 1909 first-ever edition, won by Giovanni Cuniolo. The Frenchman Jean Alavoine (1920), Costante Girardengo (1921 and 1923), Alfredo Binda (1933), Vito Ortelli (1946), Rik Van Looy (1962), Ugo Colombo (1974), the Swiss Bruno Wolfer (1979) and Denis Lunghi (2002) all won here. Chieti also hosted a Tirreno-Adriatico stage finish several times.

The route descends to **Ripa Teatina**, home to the father of the American boxer Rocky Marciano, the heavyweight world champion who was the only one in history to quit boxing undefeated. Here, a statue celebrates him. Another boxer, Rocco "Rocky" Mattioli jr. (1953), a middleweight world champion, was also born here. Next comes **Miglianico**, with several beautiful churches, and then **Tollo**, home to Cantina Tollo, a winning pro cycling team in 1996-2007.

KM 90

## CRECCHIO ➤ CHIETI ➤ ABRUZZO

The route heads for the intermediate sprint in **Crecchio**, a village that still maintains its medieval features and then rolls slightly downhill heading to the Adriatic coast.



*The Ducal Palace  
in Crecchio.*

KM 110

## ORTONA ➤ CHIETI ➤ ABRUZZO

The route then reaches **Ortona**, an important port and popular seaside resort. Despite the huge damage and destruction caused by the December 1943 battle, the city's main landmarks include a beautiful **Cathedral**, the **Aragonese Castle**, the **Caldorian Walls**, the **Baglioni Tower**, and other important buildings in the Torrevecchia and Torrenuova districts.



KM 125

## FOSSACESIA MARINA ➤ CHIETI ➤ ABRUZZO

The route cuts through **Fossacesia Marina**, with its important 13th-century abbey of San Giovanni in Venere. Birthplace of Alessandro Fantini (1932–1961), an excellent sprinter and

more-than-once stage winner at the Giro d'Italia and the Tour de France, who died following a crash in a stage finish at the Tour of Germany.



*View of Fossacesia Marina, a hamlet of Fossacesia.*

Past **Torino di Sangro Marina**, with its important manufacturing area, the peloton rolls across **Lido di Casalbordino**, a well-equipped seaside resort with the town sitting on the hillside, surrounded by an agricultural landscape, and featuring the sanctuary of the Madonna dei Miracoli.

KM 150

## VASTO ➤ CHIETI ➤ ABRUZZO



The Caldoresco Castle in Vasto, from the 15<sup>th</sup> century.



Roman Histonium in a territory that was already inhabited by the Frentani people. Major architectural landmarks include the **Cathedral**, the **church of San Maria Maggiore**, the **Palazzo D'Avalos** and the **Castello Caldoresco**. Especially seaside tourism is now the main economic activity, but the manufacturing sector is still important. The city also organizes lively cultural activities and traditional events.

Vasto is home to the painter Filippo Palizzi (1818-Naples 1899) – a member of a family of artists; the poet, literary critic and patriot Gabriele Rossetti (1783-London 1854); Raffaele Mattioli (1895-Rome 1973) - a banker and academic known as the 'humanist banker' for his commitment to culture, and the motorbike racer Andrea Iannone (1989).

Vasto hosted several stage finishes: in 1959 (the victory went to Gastone Nencini), in 1983 (winner: the Spaniard Eduardo Chozas), in 1988 (winner: the Swiss Stephan Joho), in 1998 (won by the Swede Glenn Magnusson), and in 2000 (the Russian Dimitri Konyshov claimed the win). It also hosted stage starts.



Palazzo D'Avalos, in Vasto, now a museum.

The route reaches **Vasto**, with its centre sitting atop a low hill between Punta della Penna, with its monumental lighthouse, and the mouth of the River Trigno, a pleasant terrace overlooking the Gulf of Vasto with its alternating sandy beaches and cliffs. The town of Vasto Marina offers many possibilities for a pleasant holiday to be spent in comfortable hotels or well-equipped campsites for nature-lovers. Vasto is the ancient

KM 160

## SAN SALVO MARINA ➤ CHIETI ➤ ABRUZZO

**San Salvo Marina** is the last town in Abruzzo before entering the neighbouring Molise. The town is a popular seaside resort famous for its characteristic dunes and, for several years, the 'blue flag' it earned for the cleanliness of the sea. **San Salvo** is the main town, with about 20,000 inhabitants. It stands on the innermost hills and has various characteristic districts from different eras. In the second half of the twentieth century, the area also underwent an intense industrial development coupled with a strong population growth.

The city hosted a stage start in the 2013 and 2020 editions of the Giro d'Italia.

The race enters Molise, namely the province of Campobasso, in the territory of Montenero di Bisaccia, and reaches **Petacciato Marina**. The upper town, Petacciato, sits on the hills and offers a wide view ranging from the Majella mountains to the promontory of Gargano, including the Tremiti islands.

## FINISH

## TERMOLI ➤ CAMPOBASSO ➤ MOLISE

**Termoli** then appears. It is an important city with approx. 33,000 inhabitants, the only port in Molise at the mouth of the River Biferno. The ancient medieval village stands on a spur of rock and is enclosed within the walls that separate it from the town. The Romanesque **Cathedral of San Basso**, the **church of Sant'Anna**, the **Belvedere Tower** with other similar ones, the iconic **Swabian Castle**, **Piazza San Antonio**, at the heart of the 19th-century building expansion, and other historic buildings characterize Termoli, a town that has greatly developed as a seaside resort. The port, in addition to fishing, provides regular connections with the Tremiti Islands, which administratively is part of the province of Foggia. Benito Jacovitti (1923-Roma 1997), the famous cartoonist, creator of characters such as Cocco Bill and the renowned Dario Vit, as well as other characters featured in television ads, was born here.



*The Cathedral of Termoli.*

Termoli hosted two stage finishes of the Corsa Rosa: the victory went to Paolo Rosola in 1987 and to the Lithuanian Tomas Vaitkus in 2006.



# ABRUZZO

The region of **Abruzzo**, sandwiched between the Adriatic Sea and the **Apennine** mountain chain, has as its regional capital L'Aquila, which shares the regional institutions of government with Pescara. It is divided into four provinces: L'Aquila, Chieti, Pescara and Teramo. It borders the region of Le Marche (Eng. The Marches) to the north, the Adriatic Sea to the east, Lazio to the west and Molise to the south.

The landscapes of Abruzzo are mostly **mountains** and **hills**, with a narrow band of plain along the coast. The highest peaks of the Apennines are in Abruzzo, with the tip of Corno Grande (2912 m) in the Gran Sasso massif, the Maiella (2793 m) on Mount Amaro, the Laga peaks on the border with Lazio and Le Marche and those of the Abruzzo National Park.

The region has 130 km of coastline, with sandy beaches from Le Marche to the south of Pescara, and then high cliffs with beaches below, and finally coves surrounded by Mediterranean flora as far as the border with Molise. A number of towns in the region offer a wide range of choice for mountain tourism and skiing.

The regional economy, originally based on fishing, agriculture and pasture, has diversified, although it maintains its reputation for high quality, natural products. **Saffron** is typical of the L'Aquila area. Two typical pasta dishes are 'pasta alla chitarra' and 'sagne', as well as dairy products, olive oil and cured meats, with mutton and lamb in particular. 'Arrosticini' are another Abruzzo speciality. The region produces fine wines and liquors. Typical sweets from the region include sugared almonds from the town of Sulmona and cakes such as 'parrozzo' and 'bocconotto'.

In the past, the region saw massive emigration to Europe or overseas, but migrants mostly remained tied to their land of origin.

The catastrophic 2009 earthquake hit L'Aquila and its architectural jewels, causing untold damage to the cultural heritage of the regional capital and of outlying areas. But the people of Abruzzo, with characteristic tenacity, are rebuilding the region.

Illustrious natives of Abruzzo include the writer Ignazio Silone (Pescina 1900-Ginevra 1978) - the pen name of Silvano Tranquilli – an intellectual and author who described the hard life conditions in the Marsica in his novel 'Fontamara', Benedetto Croce (Pescasseroli 1866-Napoli 1952) philosopher, historian, politician and man of letters, the engineer Corradino D'Ascanio, who designed the 'Vespa' scooter and helicopters (Popoli 1891-Pisa 1981), and the painter Francesco Paolo Michetti (Tocco di Casauria 1851-Francavilla al Mare 1929).

In cycling, among many fine riders, Abruzzo means Franco Franchi, the "chamois (or mountain goat) of Abruzzo" Vito Taccone, Vincenzo Meco, Palmiro Masciarelli, Stefano Giuliani, the tracky Gianluca Capitano, and Danilo Di Luca, winner of the 2007 Giro d'Italia and other classics.

# MOLISE

Molise is the most recently created Italian region, since it used to be part of the region of Abruzzi e Molise, alongside the region of Abruzzo, until 1963.

It is a region with ordinary statute located in Southern Italy; Campobasso is the regional capital. It borders Abruzzo to the north, Lazio to the west, Campania to the south-west and Puglia to the south-east. It is washed by the Adriatic Sea to the east.

It is the second smallest Italian region after the Aosta Valley. Its territory is almost equally divided between mountains and hills. The Passo di Rionero, also known as Bocca di Forlì (891 m), between the towns of Rionero Sannitico (Isernia, Molise) and Castel di Sangro (L'Aquila, Abruzzo), is regarded, conventionally, as the geographical boundary between Central and Southern Italy. Molise stretches some 35 km along the Adriatic Sea. The shore is mostly sandy, with long, wide beaches, with the sole exception of the promontory of Termoli. Here, in a sheltered position, stands the port – with ferry lines that run to Croatia and to the Isole Tremiti. Further seaside towns are Campomarino and Petacciato.

Historically, the region was part of the ancient Samnite – thus, Roman – territory. Heritage of that time includes the Roman theatre in Sepino. Further historical events have marked the territory and its people throughout the centuries.

The region is split into two provinces, Campobasso (the regional capital) and Isernia, and it has a total population of about 315,000.

The economy of the region thrives on major industrial activities in Termoli, Campobasso, Bojano and Venafro, along with seaside and summer tourism (main destinations have been mentioned above), as well as winter tourism, with popular resorts such as Campitello Matese and Capracotta.

The region boasts a number of valuable monuments, as well as plenty of architectural, cultural and traditional landmarks. Major attractions include the two provincial capitals, along with Termoli, Venafro, Larino, Agnone (home to Marinelli, a bell manufacturing plant with over a thousand years' worth of history), Montenero di Bisaccia and many more.

Celestine V, the 192nd Pontiff of the Catholic Church, was Pope for as little as four months, and then resigned. He was born in Molise, approximately between 1209 and 1215; his name was Pietro Angelerio or Angeleri, which he changed to Pietro da Morrone (the name under which he was known), and was venerated by the Church as Pietro Celestino. Isernia and Sant'Angelo Limosano both claim to have been his birthplace. He died as hermit in Fiumone in 1926.

The region boasts a number of nature reserves and has a prominent agricultural production, above all olive oil, along with cheese and dairy, traditional cold cuts, wine and pasta. Fishing is another major activity. Typical delicacies include "brodetto", a popular fish stew of many locations on the Adriatic coast.

Notable citizens of the region include popular singer Fred Bongusto (Campobasso, 1935) and Aldo Biscardi (Larino, 1930), journalist and TV host. Speaking of literature, mention must be made of Francesco Jovine (1902Rome 1950) who narrated the events and customs of his homeland in his novel titled "Le terre del Sacramento". Native to Termoli (1923Rome 1997) was Benito Jacovitti, one of the greatest Italian comic artists. He created a number of characters, including "Cocco Bill" who has been a favourite for generations of youngsters.

# NOTE

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

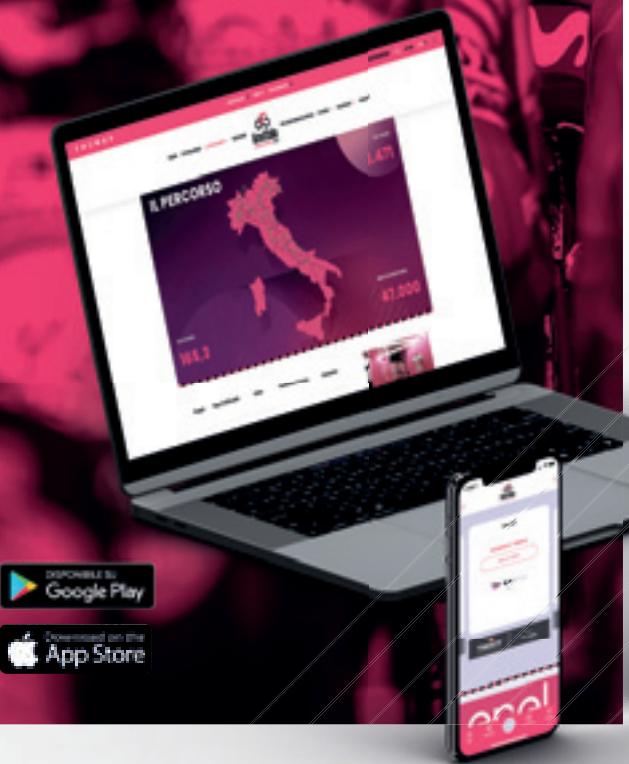
---

---

---

# SEGUI IL GIRO D'ITALIA ONLINE

**FOLLOW THE  
GIRO D'ITALIA  
ONLINE**



## WEB

- NOTIZIE NEWS
- RISULTATI E CLASSIFICHE  
*RESULTS AND  
CLASSIFICATIONS*
- AGGIORNAMENTI  
IN TEMPO REALE  
*LIVE UPDATES*
- HIGHLIGHTS –  
VIDEO PHOTO GALLERY
- INFO TECNICHE  
*TECHNICAL INFO*
- INFO TURISTICHE  
*TOURIST INFO*

[WWW.GIRODITALIA.IT](http://WWW.GIRODITALIA.IT)

## MOBILE APP

Disponibile per iOS e  
Android, tante novità per  
vivere da protagonista  
la Corsa Rosa. Tutte le  
news, il live della tappa,  
le classifiche, video e  
interviste in esclusiva.  
Scaricala subito, è gratis!

Available for iOS and  
Android, enjoy the  
Giro d'Italia like never  
before. All news, stage live  
tracks, race results, videos  
and interviews every day.  
Download it now, it's free!

## NEWSLETTER

Le novità, i risultati,  
la cronaca e tanti  
contenuti esclusivi a  
fine tappa a portata di  
click!

*The latest news, results  
and the most exclusive  
contents available  
after the stages with  
just one click!*



# NOTE

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



08

# FOGGIA – GUARDIA SANFRAMONDI

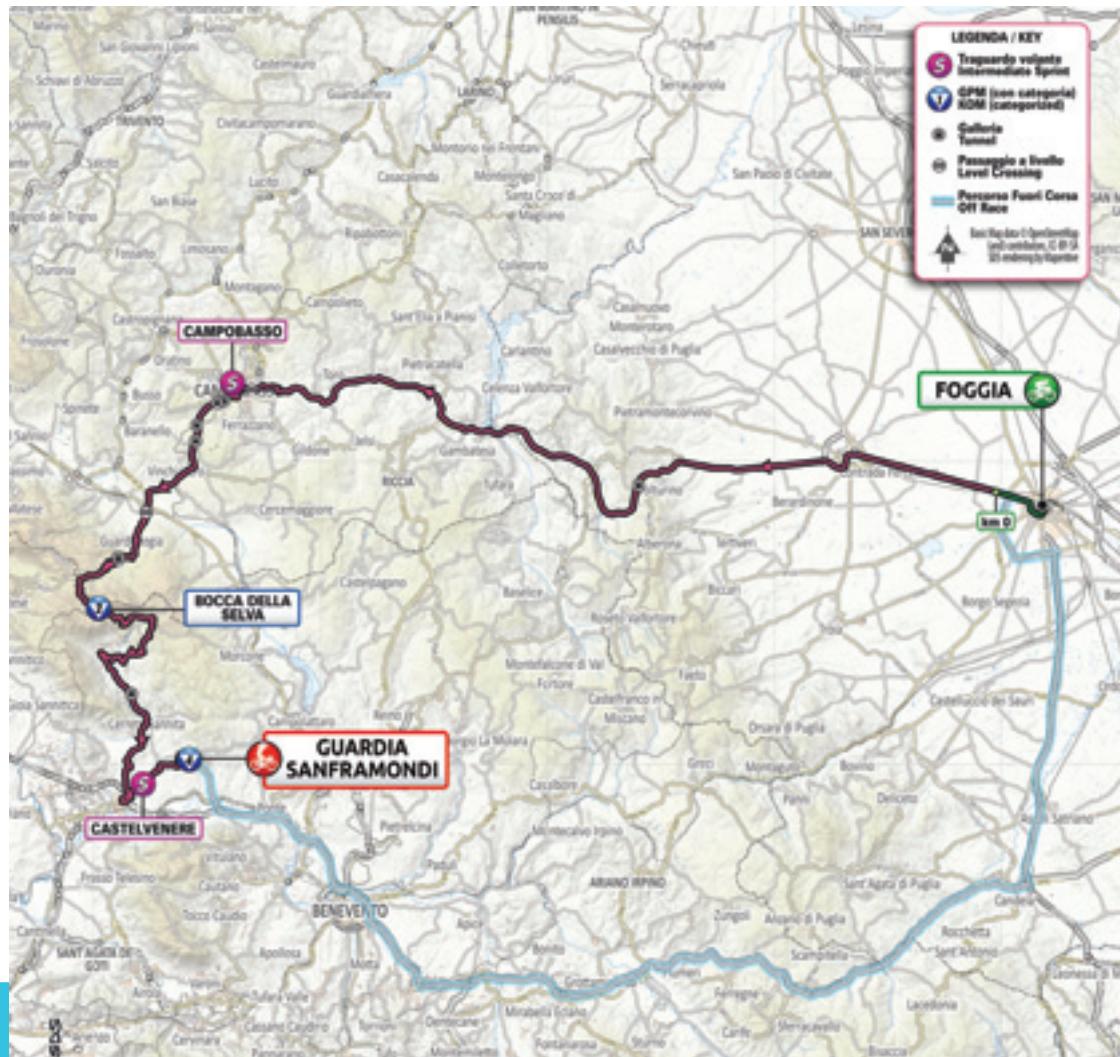
KM 170



15.05.2021  
**SATURDAY**



# FOGGIA - GUARDIA SANFRAMONDI



The Giro caravan kicks off from Foggia, Puglia, the southernmost place of the 104th edition, with quite a hilly route running on internal roads through the Apennines, the Campania being its destination.

This is a typical “stage suiting the attackers”, with a fairly short 170km length, across areas that are not so usual for the Corsa Rosa, but with interesting landscapes and some major landmarks.



## START

### FOGGIA ➤ FOGGIA ➤ PUGLIA

**Foggia**, the main city of the province with about 150,000 inhabitants, sits in the heart of the Tavoliere delle Puglie, the largest plain in centre-southern Italy, crossed by a network of main roads all converging to it. The city has a modern appearance due to the reconstruction following the earthquakes and wars that hit it over time. However, the old town testifies its rich history.

The name comes from "fovea", a cistern containing wheat - the main product of the fertile plains of its surrounding area. The city is home to the important International Agriculture and Livestock Fair. In its territory several industrial activities thrive.

The main monument in the town is the **Cathedral**, built in the 12th century and modified several times. The **Church of the Beata Maria Vergine Madre di Dio incoronata**, in the district of the same name, has been a destination for religious tourism for over thousand years. However, there are many other remarkable churches in the town. Main sights include the **Civic Museum**, the **Umberto Giordano Theatre**, dedicated to the composer born in Foggia (1867–Milan 1948), and the large **Villa Comunale**, an urban park with an imposing pronaos.

Among the many personalities born here, mention should be made of the eclectic par excellence Renzo Arbore (1937) and his friends and associates Mario Marenco (1933–Roma 2019), architect and comedian, and Gegè Telesforo (1961), musician-conductor, as well as Pino Zaccheria (1901–Tirana 1941), soldier and basketball player to whom the city stadium, home to the Calcio Foggia "Satanello" football players, is dedicated.



*The exquisite bell tower of the cathedral in Foggia.*

The Giro d'Italia had a stage finish here in 1924 where the victory went to Federico Gay. In 1926–1928–1929–1933 Alfredo Binda claimed the win, in 1932 Antonio Pesenti took first. Other stage winners were: Gino Bartali (1937), Mario Ricci (1947), Giovanni Corrieri (1951), l'olandese Humbertus Zilverberg (1962), Wilmo Francioni (1972), Franco Bitossi (1974), the Belgian Rik Van Linden (1977), Luciano Borgognoni (1977), Francesco Moser (1984), Stefano Allocchio (1985), and the Latvian Romans Vainsteins (1999).



KM 15



## LUCERA ➤ FOGGIA ➤ PUGLIA

The race heads to **Lucera**, an important historic town of the ancient Daunia, sitting atop a hill overlooking the Tavoliere. The town has a remarkable history and has always been a hub for the surrounding fertile agricultural area with olive groves, vines and vegetables, commercial and industrial activities, especially in the food, mechanics and building equipment sectors. Its rich history includes the dominations of the Longobards, Byzantines, Normans, and Swabians and, later, the town was stage to military actions.



*The Roman amphitheatre in Lucera.*



The town's heritage includes the spacious **Roman amphitheatre**, the **Castle of Frederick II**, an imposing Swabian-Angevin fortress with walls from the mid-thirteenth century built on the old acropolis, the fine **Cathedral**, with the coeval **Church of St. Francis**, the **Civic Museum** and other buildings in the town centre. However, we cannot forget the delicious food and wine local tradition.



*A tower of the Swabian Castle in Lucera.*

The city hosted a stage finish of the 2001 Giro d'Italia, when the German Danilo Hondo claimed the victory, and the following stage start. In 2010, the Lucera-L'Aquila stage, with a massive breakaway, upset the GC.

KM 85

## CASTELVENERE ➤ BENEVENTO ➤ CAMPANIA

Past Telesio Terme, the route climbs to **Castelvenere** on a winding road that runs along the Rascolagatti Park (a beautiful 10-hectare park that hosts extraordinary parties every year on Easter Monday and August 15) and, on the other side, the Seneta stream, an interesting nature trail.

Past Rascolagatti Park, the race enters the heart of Campania's vine-growing salon: first Castelvenere and then Guardia Sanframondi.

A typical Sannio village, immersed in nature, sitting on tuffs attributable to the cyclical volcanic activity of Roccamonfina, Somma and Vesuvius, Castelvenere boasts an interesting historic centre, a typical example of medieval architecture, with a moat and towers. The heart of the town is **piazza San Barbato**, where the statue of the saint stands in the centre facing the Via Sannitica.

In the medieval village major landmarks include the **Angevin Tower** that overlooks the valley crossed by the Seneta stream, the characteristic **piazza Mercato**, Via Ponte, Via del Genio, the theatre and the narrow streets from which radiate the deep tufa cellars that host a traditional wine festival

every year. An exhibition of old tools and utensils for processing grapes and making wine is on display in the longest and deepest underground tufa cellars. This has always been the art of the 'venneresi' (the name of of Castelvenere's inhabitants). Over the years, numerous archaeological finds from the Samnite and Roman eras, as well as a prehistoric pile-dwelling settlement have been discovered, showing how this territory has always been extraordinarily fertile.

Castelvenere is well-known for being one of the most intensive wine-growing municipalities in Italy: 15 squared km of land are covered with 1000 hectares of vineyards that produce Aglianico and Falanghina del Sannio, among other characteristic wines of this area (Piedirocco, Greco, Coda di volpe, Beneventano, etc.). It hosts the oldest wine festival in Southern Italy (on the last weekend of August), it was the 2019 European Wine Capital and is part of the National Association of Wine-produc-



Ruins of the Castle of Castelvenere.



Vineyards in Castelvenere.

ing Cities, as well as having many wine shops, the oldest one from the 16th century, including very modern cooperative or private vineyards that produce millions of bottles per year.

The typical dish of Castelvenere is the scarpella vennerese, a baked pasta flan with pork sausage, cheese and eggs – one of the traditional Italian dishes and a must on the menus of many restaurants and ‘agritourism’ facilities in this corner of Sannio, now a not-to-be-missed destination for whoever loves good food and wine.

Two symbols mark the exit of Castelvenere (on the other side of the Via Sannitcam that runs across the whole town and is part of the stage route): an ancient wine press that epitomizes the wine production – the local main activity – and a stone mill that represents the extra virgin olive oil, another prized product here. As the peloton rolls along the route, Castelvenere vineyards are replaced by those of Guardia Sanframondi: an extraordinary valley of vineyards as far as the slopes of the medieval castle of Guardia

## FINISH

### GUARDIA SANFRAMONDI ➤ BENEVENTO ➤ CAMPANIA

The route takes in the closing climb to the finish at **Guardia Sanframondi** (4th category summit, 455m). One of the unprecedented finishes of the Giro d’Italia no.104, this town of about 5,000 inhabitants is mostly known for its fine wines and the seven-year penitence rites to celebrate the Assumption. The upper town sits on a hill, with conifer and oak woods overlooking a pleasant panorama, the lower town by the river Calore

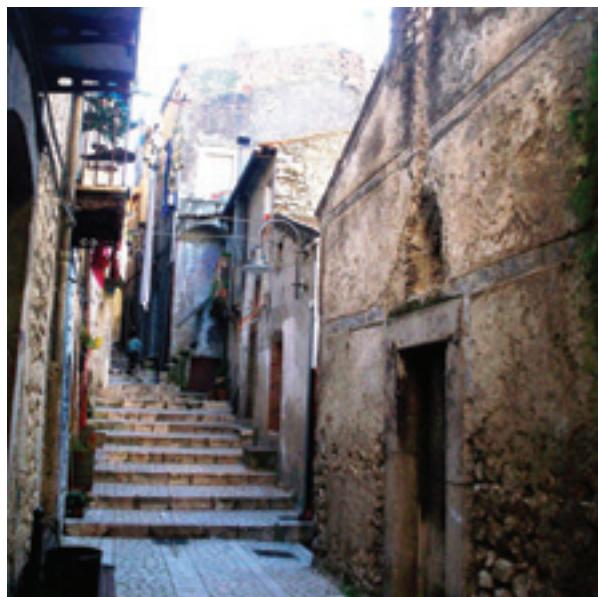
is surrounded by vineyards and olive groves. In the historic centre the **castle**, damaged by the 1980 earthquake, offers suggestive medieval views.

The major landmarks include the **sanctuary-basilica of the Assunta**, in Baroque style, the **church of the Annunciata-Ave Gratia Plena** and the old **church of San Leonardo**, as well as many fountains and gateways leading to the centre. The town's name comes from the Sanframondo family that built the castle to guard the Titermina valley. It now houses museums and a variety of events and festivals.

The local wines include the Falanghina, with its straw-yellow colour with greenish hues and a velvety, fresh taste with fruity aromas. Its name, imported by the Greeks, recalls the "falanga", that is, the poles that support the vines. Falanghina, in fact, means 'vine supported by poles'. In the rich local production other wines stand out, such as Aglianico, Sannio, and many others. Here, another excellence is the olive oil.



*The medieval castle in Guardia Sanframondi.*



*The old church of San Leonardo in Guardia Sanframondi.*

# NOTE

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

# PUGLIA

Puglia, known in Latin and in English as Apulia, is Southern Italy's easternmost region and is just 80 km from Albania.

Puglia has 800 km of coastline, shared by the Adriatic Sea to the north and east, and, to a lesser extent, the Ionian Sea in the south. It borders Molise to the north, and Campania and Basilicata to the west. Along the coast, rocky sections like the splendid headland of the Gargano Peninsula in the north, alternate with the 'spur' on the heel formed by the Isole Tremiti archipelago, north of the Gargano, cliffs in the south, near Bari, and the lower Salento area, and sand beaches in the Bay of Taranto. The hinterland is mostly made up of plains and hills. The provinces of Puglia are, from north to south, Foggia, Barletta-Andria-Trani, Bari (the regional capital), Taranto, Brindisi and Lecce. The region boasts a wide range of different landscapes, and a long and fascinating history. Lecce, in Salento, with beautiful coasts and famous baroque architecture; Brindisi has a major port. Taranto, home to another important industrial and commercial port, with its gulf and the 'two seas': Mar Grande (Great Sea) and Mar Piccolo (Little Sea); Foggia, like Barletta-Andria-Trani, is at the heart of a fertile farmland.

Puglia has combined tradition and history with innovation and technology. The trulli – the name comes from the Greek for cupola – are traditional Apulian dry stone huts with conical roofs. They are specific to the village of Alberobello and its surroundings. The trulli are listed as World Heritage by Unesco. Also typical of the region are manor farms, which contribute to the region's rich and varied food production, which includes sea products and the fruit of the land, with every area offering its own, typical dishes. Orecchiette – pasta in the form of tiny ears – are a typical product, served with turnip tops, tomatoes, a meat sauce or ricotta. Other regional specialities include vegetables pickled in olive oil, Pane di Altamura, a variety of pastas, and fish.

San Giovanni Rotondo, a large town in Foggia province, is well known for the cult of Padre Pio, born Francesco Forgione (1887-1968), a priest with the Order of Capuchin Friars Minor who lived and is now buried there, and continues to attract an influx of pilgrims from around the world.

Domenico Modugno (1928-1994), born at Polignano a Mare, near Bari, was a singer-songwriter, guitarist, actor and director, whose 1958 song "Nel blu dipinto di blu", renamed 'Volare', is a sort of Italian theme-tune around the world.

In cycling, the cyclo-cross rider Vito Di Tano (b. 1954 at Monopoli), won two world championships and five Italian titles. Between 1972 and 1998 there was a Giro della Puglia stage race, held in October and won, variously, by Gimondi, Moser and Saronni. The 1976 World Road Championships were held in the beautiful, 'white city' of Ostuni, with the track in the then new velodrome at Monteroni now sadly abandoned.

# CAMPANIA

Campania is a region in southern Italy with more than 6 million inhabitants (more than half of whom are concentrated in the province of Naples). The region overlooks the Tyrrhenian Sea, and borders the regions of Lazio, Molise, Puglia and Basilicata. The territory of Campania has, by area, 50% hills, 35% mountains and 15% plains, divided into four clear sub-regions. On the plains, the fertile Terra di Lavoro. The Sannio, made up of mountains and hills along the Apennines, with the Matese mountains. Then, there is Irpinia, in the central and eastern part of the region, landlocked and mostly mountainous. Finally, Cilento, a large, mountainous headland, marking Campania's southern border, separating the Bays of Salerno and Policastro. Campania's main river is the Volturno, the longest in southern Italy. Its second river is the Sele. The Campania coast faces the Tyrrhenian Sea. The best-known stretches of coast are those of the Sorrento peninsula, with the Lattari Mountains running along the entire headland, which belongs partly to the province of Naples, with the Sorrento Coast, and partly to Salerno, with the Amalfi Coast. The Cilento coast lies entirely within the province of Salerno. Major natural landmarks include Mount Vesuvius and the volcanic area of the Phlegraean Fields, also known as Campi Flegrei. Outstanding sights also include the Solfatara, a shallow volcanic crater at Pozzuoli, which emits sulphurous fumes; Lake Avernus, a volcanic crater lake thought of in ancient times as one of the entrances to the underworld; and the wide variety of thermal springs, which include the springs at Ischia, Agnano, Pozzuoli and Castellamare di Stabia. For their natural beauty, the islands of Ischia, Capri and Procida are world famous. Two more, smaller, but equally beautiful islands are Vivara and Nisida.

The region boasts a long and complex history that has left a rich cultural legacy, illustrated, for example by the ancient architecture still visible at Cuma, Naples (first known as Parthenope, then as Neapolis) and Paestum, where Cilento begins, an ancient city of Magna Graecia, with its impressive Temple of Athena, a site of great value, as are those in the valley of temples at Agrigento in Sicily. Major migrations from Greece – whence the name Magna Graecia – shaped the history of Campania, as archaeological and architectural traces show. The Roman amphitheatre at Capua, second only to the Coliseum in size, is unmissable. So too is the early Christian art of the Catacombs and Basilicas in Naples. Other highlights include the Flavian Amphitheatre in Pozzuoli, the archaeological site at Cuma and the Piscina Mirabilis, a freshwater cistern dug out of the cliff face at Bacoli, to provide the fleet at the harbour in Misenum with drinking water. Near Vesuvius lie Pompeii and Herculaneum, destroyed by the eruption in 79 AD. Also outstanding are the excavations at Oplonti. From the Roman period, the Arch of Trajan at Benevento, built to honour the Emperor Trajan, is virtually intact even today.

The culture reflects the influence of the Lombards, the Angevins, and the House of Aragon, in the Bourbon period, when Naples and its Kingdom were one of the cultural, artistic and economic centres of Europe, leading the continent in many sectors. On 3 October 1839 the Napoli-Portici railway, the first one in Italy, but already equipped with a double track line, was inaugurated. In 1861, Campania joined the Kingdom of Italy. The industrial revolution that followed was at the expense of Naples, Campania and the entire south of Italy, which suffered problems that prevented their full development.

As regards the architectural heritage, the cathedrals of Casertavecchia, Amalfi, Benevento and Salerno are all outstanding, as are the Rocca dei Rettori and the church and monastery complex of Santa Sofia, both at Benevento. The Certosa di Padula (Padula Charterhouse), a UNESCO World Heritage Site, has the world's largest cloister, surrounded by 84 columns. The Reggia di Caserta (Royal Palace of Caserta), built for Charles III of Spain by the architect Luigi Vanvitelli, is also a UNESCO World Heritage Site. It is, by definition, the last great work of Italian Baroque and, with 1,790 windows, and 1,200 rooms covering more than 2 million square metres, the largest royal residence in the world. The Bourbons wanted to emulate the Palace of Versailles in Campania. It is surrounded by an immense park divided into two sectors characterised by an Italian garden with many fountains, waterfalls and water features, and an English garden with dense woodland. Close to Caserta, in the village of San Leucio, Ferdinand I of the Two Sicilies opened his silk factory, the "Regia Manifattura delle Sete", included in the UNESCO World Heritage sites list.

The Miglio d'Oro (named after an ancient unit of measurement used in Naples) is a short stretch of road running along the coast of the southern neighbourhood of Naples. Its remarkable historical and artistic legacy includes wonderful rococo and neoclassic villas with large, verdant gardens. The view over the Gulf of Naples and the islands of Capri, Ischia and Procida is breath-taking.

Giuseppe "Joe" Petrosino was born in Padula in 1860. He immigrated to New York at a very young age, and became a legendary detective fighting against organized crime. He was shot to death in Palermo in 1909, where he was investigating international criminal connections. His life inspired a number of films and novels.

# BE SOCIAL WITH GIRO D'ITALIA



# NOTE

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

# NOTE

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



09

# CASTEL DI SANGRO - CAMPO FELICE

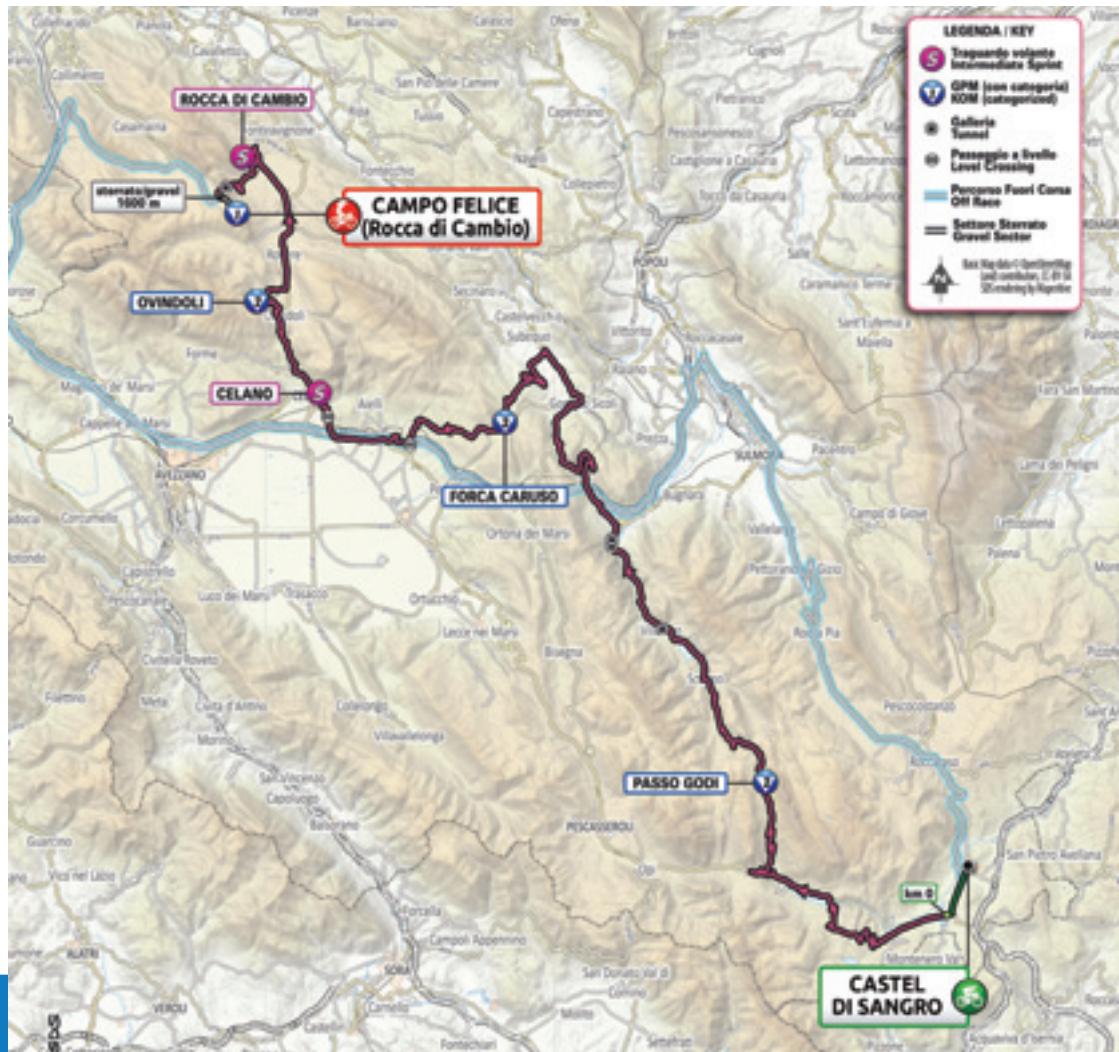
**KM 158**



16.05.2021  
**SUNDAY**



# CASTEL DI SANGRO – CAMPO FELICE



On the Sundays during the Giro d'Italia – in fact on the weekends in all the stage grand tours, especially in the last decades – the stages are spectacular, partly to increase the tv broadcast ratings. And in cycling it is usually a climb the most entertaining spectacle. The 158km stage no. 9 does not fall short of climbs as it runs in the mountains of Abruzzo just in the province of l'Aquila.



## START



## CASTEL DI SANGRO ➤ L'AQUILA ➤ ABRUZZO

The meeting place and the start are in **Castel di Sangro**, an active tourist town with almost 8,000 inhabitants, on the edge of a wide valley in the Alto Sangro region with old wrought iron, wood and wool traditions.

It was the medieval Castrum Caracorum, with several archaeological finds, tombstones and bronzes, including the famous 'Samnite bull', which are now on display in the Maddalena convent. Main landmarks include the ancient **church of Santa Maria Assunta**, rebuilt in Baroque style after an earthquake at the end of the 17th century, and its two bell towers, and the Romanesque **church of San Leonardo** from the 16th century, with two flights of steps. The ancient **Palazzo De Petra**, aka "del leone", houses the **Pinacoteca Patiniana** in memory of the fellow citizen Teofilo Patini (1840-Naples 1906), a painter and lecturer. Castel di Sangro is home to the **International "fly-fishing" Museum** hosting a variety of events. The town is also a winter resort given its proximity to various skiing areas.



*The church of Santa Maria Assunta with its two characteristic bell towers in Castel di Sangro.*

## KM 5



## ALFEDENA ➤ L'AQUILA ➤ ABRUZZO

The route heads to **Alfedena**, a small town with narrow, characteristic streets and archaeological finds of a large Italic necropolis. The **castle** of the same name stands high up in the old centre, along with the **church of Saints Peter and Paul**. It is also a

popular summer holiday destination. Alfedena is also known as "the village of the doctors", due to the activity of the flint workers who, working hard, were able to have their children study.



*The ruins of the Castle of Alfedena.*



KM 15

**BARREA ➤ L'AQUILA ➤ ABRUZZO**

The route climbs slightly up the **Colle della Croce** (1168m), and then runs down to **Barrea** and the artificial Barrea lake formed by a dam on the River Sangro. We are in the Abruzzo National Park.

The race passes **Villetta Barrea**, with the **church of the Assunta** and the high altar by Bernini. It is a tourist resort with a typical black pine forest, woodland and agricultural activities.

KM 35

**PASSO GODI ➤ L'AQUILA ➤ ABRUZZO**

Here a 14km long ascent (at 4%, average gradient) leads to the 2nd category summit, **Godi Pass** (1556m). It used to be a transhumance route, but now it is a well-equipped ski resort in a peaceful natural environment.

KM 50

**SCANNO ➤ L'AQUILA ➤ ABRUZZO**

The route descends to **Scanno**, the main town by a natural lake that it shares with Villalago. Its history began in the Roman era and continued with the noble families Celano, D'Aquino, and others. The main religious buildings in this pretty town are the **church of San Maria di Loreto** with a beautiful Romanesque portal, the **Chiesa Madre**, and the **small church of the Madonna del Lago**.

The economic local activities include agriculture, livestock breeding, handcrafts (bobbin lace, copper, wrought iron and gold and silver filigree), as well as summer and winter tourism.

Scanno hosted several Giro d'Italia stages. The first dates to 1955 when the victory went to Gastone Nencini. Later the stage winners were: Franco Bitossi (1969), the Spaniard Marino Lejarreta (1991), and the Latvian Piotr Ugrumov (1933).



*The Rocca in Villalago during the winter.*



The route descends again onto **Villalago** that stands on a rocky spur with the parish church of **San Maria di Loreto**, the 16th-century **hermitage of San Domenico**, the **Rocca** with a view of the Sagittario Gorge - a nature reserve along the narrow gorges where the river of the same name flows. Its economy is based on agriculture, artisanal activities and summer tourism. The descent ends in **Anversa degli Abruzzi**, a small town included in the list of Italy's most beautiful villages. Past the Cocullo junction, an easy climb leads to **Fonte Ciarlotto** (1121m).

KM 85

## GORIANO SICOLI ➤ L'AQUILA ➤ ABRUZZO

Here the route runs down onto **Goriano Sicoli**, a typical medieval village in the Sirente-Monte Velino territory, and **Castel di Ieri**, a town along the Tiburtina-Valeria sitting on a hill where the quadrangular Tower, with a pyramidal base, rises.

KM 105

## FORCA CARUSO ➤ L'AQUILA ➤ ABRUZZO

This is where the climb begins and the route clears the 3rd category **Forca Caruso** (1107m), a watershed between the Marsica and the Subequana, or lower Aterno, valley, an old pass across a natural landscape. The descent runs across **Collarmele**, with its extensive wind farm on Mount Coppetella and several remarkable old buildings.

KM 120

## CELANO ➤ L'AQUILA ➤ ABRUZZO

Then the route runs down to **Celano**, with about 10,000 inhabitants, the second largest municipal territory in the Marsica region boasting a rich history. It stands in a relatively high position overlooking the Fucino plain, where until the mid-19th century there was a big lake, drained on behalf of the Roman banker and nobleman Alessandro Torlonia, using pre-existing hydraulic engineering works from the Roman era. Major landmarks include the **Piccolomini Castle**, in the heart of the historic centre, from the late 14th century that houses the



The Piccolomini Castle in the historical centre of Celano.



**Marsica Museum of Sacred Art.** The **Aielli-Celano Gorge**, with its high rocky walls, is also worth a visit.

It is a very fertile region for agriculture (vegetables and tubers, potatoes and carrots in particular) and livestock breeding; it also includes a more recent industrial area.

KM 135



## OVINDOLI ➤ L'AQUILA ➤ ABRUZZO

Past Celano, where the fastest riders will grab the IS points, the route takes in the 2nd category climb up **Ovindoli** (1350m). It is an agreeable municipal territory that, along with the neighbouring ones of Rocca di Mezzo and Rocca di Cambio, lay on the plateau of the Rocche. Originally, it was a refuge against barbarian raids, as evidenced by the remains of a castle and fortifications, including a still visible, beautiful tower. The parish church houses several remarkable art works. It is a summer and winter holiday resort - with downhill skiing on the slopes of Mount Magnola and cross-country skiing on the plateau. Livestock breeding is developed, especially sheep farming and wood craftsmanship.



Ovindoli, a village surrounded by the natural landscape of the plateau of the Rocche.



The abbey of Santa Lucia by Ovindoli.

KM 150



## ROCCA DI CAMBIO ➤ L'AQUILA ➤ ABRUZZO

A little more than 10km almost flat road, across the suggestive wide plateau, up to a crossroads which, past **Rovere** - a hamlet of Rocca di Mezzo - leads for the second intermediate sprint in **Rocca di Cambio**. The village - the highest of the region and in the Apennines – is a traditional summer and winter holiday resort.

The major landmarks include the **collegiate church of San Pietro**, standing on the summit, the **church of the Annunziata**, the **abbey of Santa Lucia**, and the well-preserved **tower**, that is what remains of an old castle.

Rocca di Cambio hosted four Giro d'Italia stage finishes: in 1965 where the victory went to Luciano Galbo, in 1966 to the German Rudi Altig, in 1968 to the Spaniard Luis Pedro Santamarina and in 2012 to Paolo Tiralongo.

## FINISH

### CAMPO FELICE ➤ L'AQUILA ➤ ABRUZZO

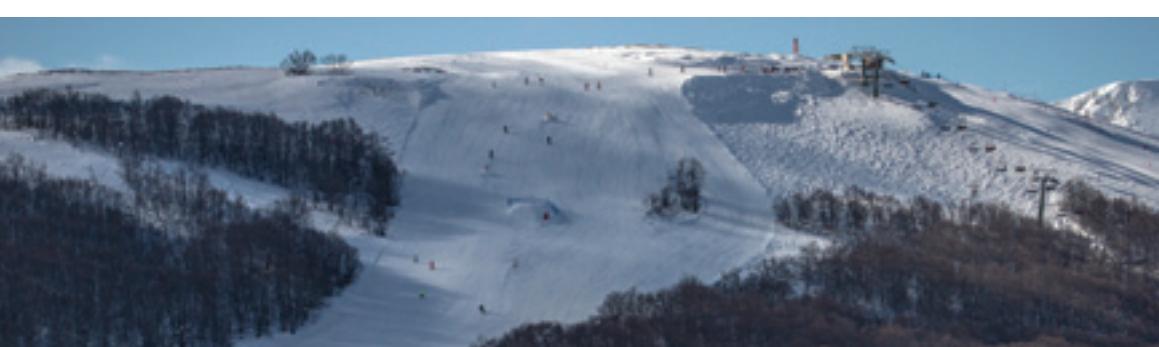
The final ascent (1st category climb) leads to the unprecedented finish at the **Campo Felice** ski resort, at an altitude of 1655 metres, with the final 1800m on gravel road. The Campo Imperatore plain is divided into two parts, separated by the SS 696. About 30% of Campo Felice's tourist facilities are part of the municipal territory of Rocca di Cambio, the remaining part is included in the municipal territory of Lucoli.

The ski resort, the second-largest in southern Italy after Roccaraso, equipped with efficient ski lifts and adequate accommodation facilities, was conceived and built from the 1960s, by the mayor of Rocca di Cambio at the time, Aldo Jacovitti (Rome 1923-2016). He earned the status of "Cavaliere del Lavoro" and was the founder of a leading oil products company with his father Nicola, a native of Rocca di Cambio. He was elected mayor for three terms and always promoted and helped his family's homeland and its inhabitants, for which he always harbored fondness.

As a ski resort, Campo Felice (and Campo Imperatore) hosted Pope John Paul II for skiing, his sporting passion, on several occasions.

Alpine and Nordic skiing events have been held here over the years.

A motto of stage 9 could rightly be: "Forget the flatland, guys..."



Snowy landscape, Campo Felice.

# NOTE

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



10

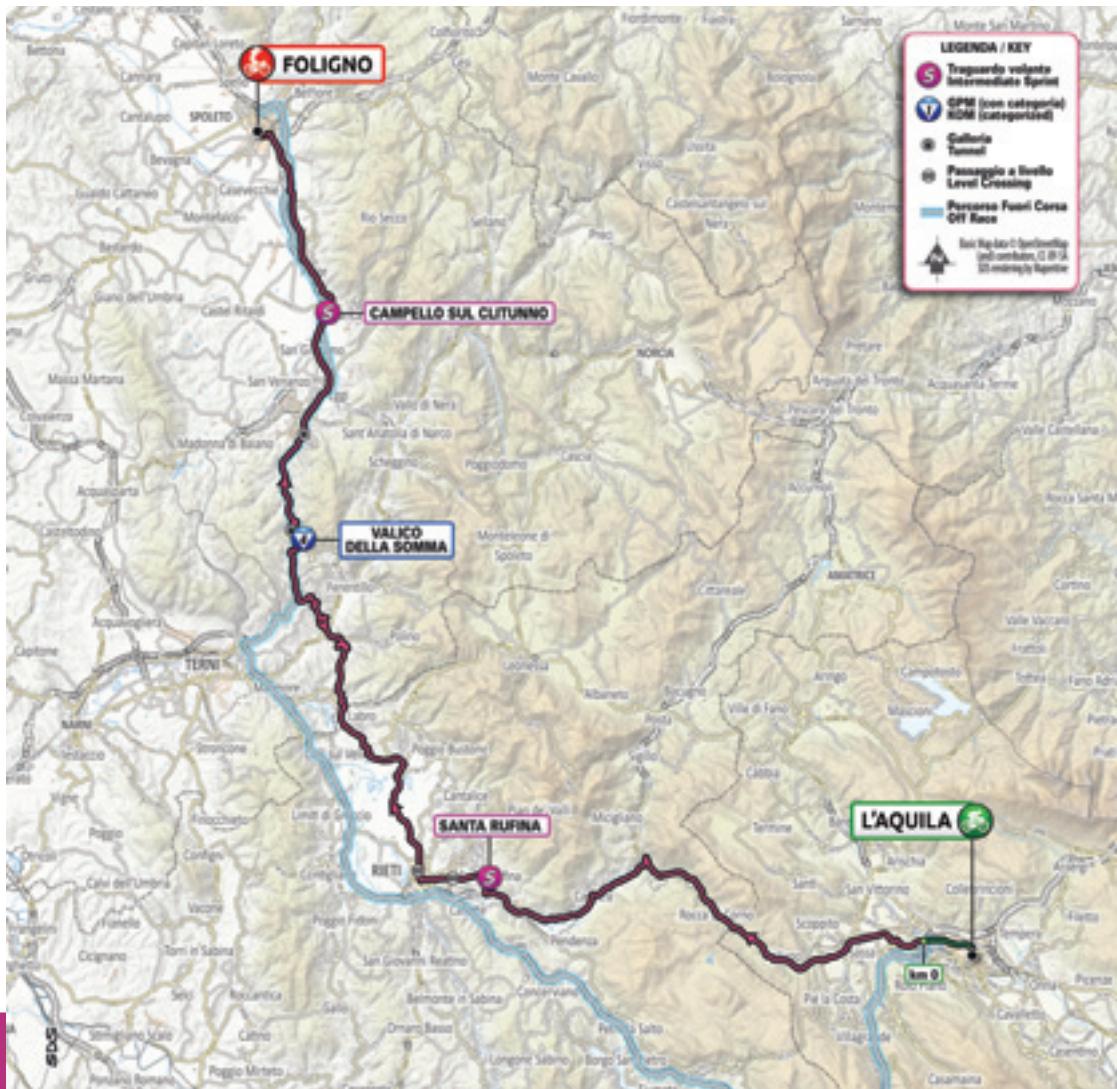
# L'AQUILA – FOLIGNO

**KM 139**



17.05.2021  
**MONDAY**

# L'AQUILA - FOLIGNO



This stage is raced on a Monday, which is usually considered a rest day in a grand tour. After the many undulations of the previous one, this stage actually has a milder profile and, despite passing through 3 regions (Abruzzo, Lazio and Umbria), it is shorter in length (at only 139 kilometres).



## START



## L'AQUILA ➤ L'AQUILA ➤ ABRUZZO

The flag is dropped in **L'Aquila**, the regional capital of Abruzzo, at the foot of the Gran Sasso. A city of ancient foundation (1254), it now has a population of approx. 70,000. Over the centuries, it was repeatedly struck by earthquakes that hindered its growth - in 1315, in 1461, in 1703 and, most recently, in 2009. The latter extensively damaged the city, and took a terrible toll, killing 309 people, leaving 1,800 injured and 80,000 homeless. L'Aquila is still resolutely engaged in the reconstruction of its architectural, cultural, monumental and housing heritage, as it has already done in the past, with the dedication and determination of its fearless people.

Notable landmarks include **Piazza del Duomo**, the **Basilica of San Bernardino**, the **castle** (housing the **National Museum of Abruzzo**), **Santa Maria di Collemaggio** (the major monument of the region, and the burial site of Pope Celestine V), and the **Fountain of the 99 spouts**, the symbol of the city. L'Aquila also has an important university, founded in 1596. Notable natives include the popular journalist, essayist and TV personality Bruno Vespa (1944).



*The Basilica of San Bernardino, in L'Aquila.*

The list of Giro d'Italia stage winners in L'Aquila includes Luigi Lucotti (1914), Giuseppe Enrici (1924), Gino Bartali (in 1936 and in 1937) and Giancarlo Astrua (1950). In 1954, the Swiss Carlo Clerici broke away with Nino Assirelli, but nobody took him seriously, so he managed to open a 30-minute gap, taking the leader's jersey and defending it all the way to the last stage. The list continues with Guido Carlesi (1965), the Spaniard Vicente Lopez Carril (1971, on the Gran Sasso), Franco Chioccioli (1985), the Dane John Carlsen (1989), and Marco Pantani (1999). Most recently, Danilo Di Luca claimed a stage win in 2005, Evgenij Petrov in 2010 (in a stage that was meant to pay tribute to the city the year after the earthquake, and that actually... shook up the GC), and the Spaniard Pello Bilbao in 2019.



KM 30

## ANTRODOCO ➤ RIETI ➤ LAZIO

Right after the start, past the intersection leading to **Scoppito** the route takes an easy climb up to **Sella di Corno** in a pristine natural environment. Along the descent, the stage enters the province of Rieti (Lazio), passing through **Antrodoco**. The town, a mediaeval village whose name means “in the midst of the mountains”, is strategically located along a major roadway. Its chief economic activities are agriculture, handicraft and tourism. The route leaves the s.s. 17 and takes the s.s. 4 (the Via Salaria), passing by the ancient **baths of Cotilia**, currently a modern spa resort. We are now in the municipal territory of **Castel Sant'Angelo**, in the Piana di San Vittorino, where river Velino flows. This is an area with distinctive karst features, and a beautiful natural lake called Lago di Paterno.



*The village of Castel Sant'Angelo.*



*Pallini Palace in Piazza del Popolo, Antrodoco.*

KM 50

## RIETI ➤ RIETI ➤ LAZIO

Next on the stage course, past the junction leading to **Cittaducale**, comes Rieti. A provincial capital and the centre of the historical region of Sabina, it lies in a wide valley at the foot of Mount Terminillo. The historical centre has retained its original Roman urban layout, and the mighty mediaeval walls have survived to the present day. Given its geographical position, the city is defined as “Italy’s midpoint” (which Foligno also claims to be). It is rich in monuments, and has a major historical and religious legacy. Local cuisine is excellent and varied. Basketball and track and field are popular sports. The first intermediate sprint of the stage is set here.



*Part of the city walls of Rieti.*

Rieti and Mount Terminillo hosted twenty Giro stage finishes, as well as other cycling events. The elegant and powerful sprinter Adolfo Leoni (Gualdo Tadino 1917–Massa 1970), nicknamed the “Tyro Power of cycling”, spent most of his life in Rieti. He became amateur world champion in 1937, and he raced as a Pro from 1938 to 1952. His major achievements include 17 Giro stages (including the Maglia Rosa), the 1941 Italian Championships, the 1942 Milano–Sanremo, and one Tour de France stage win. He was married to the famous opera singer (soprano) Maria Luisa Cioni.

## KM 60

### POGGIO BUSTONE ➤ RIETI ➤ LAZIO

The route passes the junction to **Poggio Bustone**. The town, rising on the top of a hill, near a sanctuary that was founded by St. Francis, was the birthplace of the popular musician and singer-songwriter Lucio Battisti (1943–Milan 1998). It is also known to foodies for being a major producer of porchetta.

Upon leaving Lazio and entering Umbria (in the province of Terni), the route encounters **Piediluco** and its beautiful lake, the seat of the National Rowing centre. In 1976, the late Belgian ace Patrick Sercu won a stage here. **Forca di Arnone**,

next along the route, is a frazione of the municipal territory of **Arnone**, which is listed as one of the most beautiful villages in Italy. The stage winds its way through the pristine nature of Umbria and of the Valnerina, passes **Montefranco** (a town noted for its olive oil), and enters the province of Perugia.



*The Sanctuary and Monastery of Poggio Bustone, dedicated to San Giacomo.*

## KM 100

### VALICO DELLA SOMMA ➤ PERUGIA ➤ UMBRIA

The route takes a 4th category climb up to **Valico della Somma**, at an elevation of 655 metres, touching the territory of Spoleto.

## KM 120

### CAMPELLO SUL CLITUNNO ➤ PERUGIA ➤ UMBRIA

Next along the route, after the intersection, comes **Campello sul Clitunno**. Main sights here include the ancient **Temple of Clitumnus**. This area is noted for its prized olive oil. The stunning natural landscape is dotted with hamlets, farmsteads and castles. Here the riders will contest the second intermediate sprint. **Borgo Trevi**, next along the route, is the modern part of Trevi, where the manufacturing and trading activities take place, whereas the elegant old town is located uphill.



## FINISH



## FOLIGNO &gt; PERUGIA &gt; UMBRIA



After passing through **Sant'Eraclio**, the riders will enter **Foligno**, where the stage is likely to finish in a bunch sprint. Its large territory extends over the surrounding hills and in the plains, with many (127) small villages and hamlets. It is the third most populated city in Umbria, with over 55,000 inhabitants. It is the main communication hub of central Italy, and a lively centre for trade, manufacturing and tourism.



Printing is an ancient tradition of the town, dating back to the Middle Ages. Dante Alighieri's Divine Comedy was the first book printed in the Italian language right here in Foligno, in 1472. The "Barbanera Almanac" – one of the most famous almanacs, which is still very popular today – has been published here every year since 1762.



In its long history, Foligno has repeatedly suffered from major earthquakes, most recently on September 26, 1997. The earthquake severely damaged the architectural heritage of the city, which has by now been restored. The **Town Hall** and the **Civic Tower** (the symbol of the city), the **Duomo** (dedicated to the patron, **San Feliciano**) and other elegant buildings give onto the central square, **Piazza della Repubblica**. Equally noteworthy is the **Abbey of Sasso Vivo**, around 6 km from the inner town. Given its central position at the heart of Italy, Foligno claims to be the centre of Europe and, by extension, the "centre of the world" (constantly rivalling with Rieti). The city was the birthplace of Giuseppe Piermarini (1734–1808), a very famous neoclassical architect who designed many important buildings, including Teatro alla Scala in Milan. Notable natives also include the popular international cycling commissaire Rufino Martellini (1943–2020).



The Town Hall of Foligno.

The Giro d'Italia featured finishes here in 1968 (with victory going to Franco Bitossi), in 2014 (to Frenchman Nacer Bouhanni) and in 2016 (with André Greipel sprinting to victory). Foligno was also stage start city.



One of the cloisters of the Abbey of Sasso Vivo, near the centre of Foligno.

# UMBRIA

Umbria is a region of central Italy, bordered by Tuscany, Marche and Lazio; it is referred to as "the green heart of Italy". It is an inland region, having no coastline; its territory is mainly hilly and mountainous, with multiple river basins such as the Val Tiberina, which is crossed by the Tiber River. The region is home to the Trasimeno and Piediluco lakes. Its territory is marked by green, low hills, with towns and villages of different sizes, having a long, rich history and a prominently Mediaeval look.

The region was already inhabited by the Umbri and the Etruscans back in proto-history, and afterwards became part of the Roman Empire. It was also subsumed into the Papal States. Its many museums contain an impressive number and variety of artistic works, such as the tiny statue known as the "Venus of Trasimeno", dating back to the Upper Palaeolithic, which was found on the shores of the lake of the same name.

The region has two provinces: Perugia, the regional capital, and Terni. The Cascate delle Marmore (Marmore's Falls), near Terni, are one of the major natural landmarks of the region. The economy of the region is based on four pillars: industry, handicraft, agriculture and tourism. Umbria is also renowned for its traditional ceramics manufacturing. Viticulture, especially in the Orvieto area, and olive growing are the main activities of the region's well-developed agriculture, which is well integrated with the industrial and tertiary sectors. Local gastronomy mainly offers meat produce and is best renowned for its charcuterie, produced especially around Norcia: which is why the Italian word "norcino" is used to describe the operators and products of this industry, such as wild game and meat. The many typical desserts of Umbria are just as delicious. Chocolate is one of the most esteemed products of the region, which is even home to a "chocolate district" in the Perugia area.

Tourism and all related activities are a main driver of the economy of the region. Religious tourism plays a major role in this respect. Umbria was home to the founder of monasticism, St. Benedict of Nursia, to St. Francis of Assisi, to St. Clare and to St. Rita of Cascia; all of them were major figures in the Catholic world, whose life and charitable acts are remembered by major architectural and spiritual landmarks.

The Cathedral of Orvieto, Palazzo dei Consoli in Gubbio, Piazza dei Popoli and the Duomo dell'Annunziata in Todi, the Cathedrals of Terni, Assisi and Santa Maria degli Angeli, together with all the Franciscan places of worship that were rebuilt and restored after the 1997 earthquake, which severely damaged many religious and non-religious historical buildings, are the major landmarks in such a rich region.

Many cities and towns host a number of events, especially in the summertime. The most famous folk events include the Corsa dei Ceri (Gubbio), the Giostra della Quintana (Foligno, which recalls 17-century customs), the Mediaeval festival of Calendimaggio (Assisi) and the Corsa all'Anello (Narni).

Other major national and international cultural events, ranging from music to theatre, include the Festival dei Due Mondi (Spoleto) and the Umbria Jazz Festival (Perugia).

# NOTE

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

11



PERUGIA –  
MONTALCINO  
(BRUNELLO DI MONTALCINO WINE STAGE)

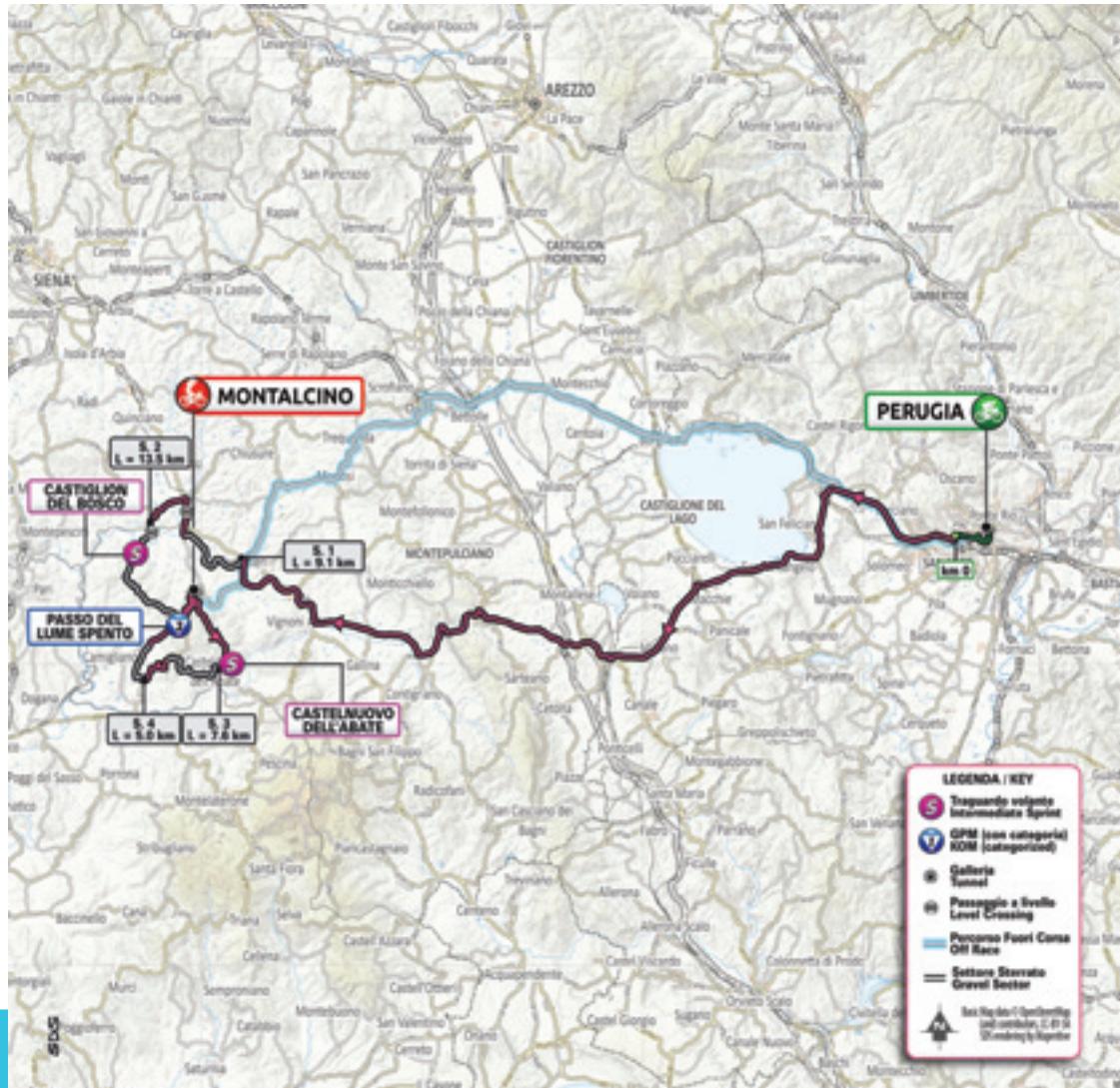
**KM 162**



19.05.2021  
**WEDNESDAY**



## PERUGIA - MONTALCINO (BRUNELLO DI MONTALCINO WINE STAGE)



The first half of the stage is quite uncomplicated, while the second one features four dirt-road sectors, totalling 35 kilometres. Even if the gradients are mild (with the exception of just the first one), these unpaved sectors will be forcing some real selection.

## START

### PERUGIA ➤ PERUGIA ➤ UMBRIA

After spending a well-deserved rest day in the peaceful Umbria, the race resumes from the beautiful **Perugia**, the regional capital. The city has a population of around 165,000. It rises in a prominent position on an irregular cluster of hills overlooking the Tiber valley, at an elevation of approx. 500 metres. The topography of the territory affected the urban development of the city, which has countless subdivisions (*frazioni* and *località*) scattered around the foothills.

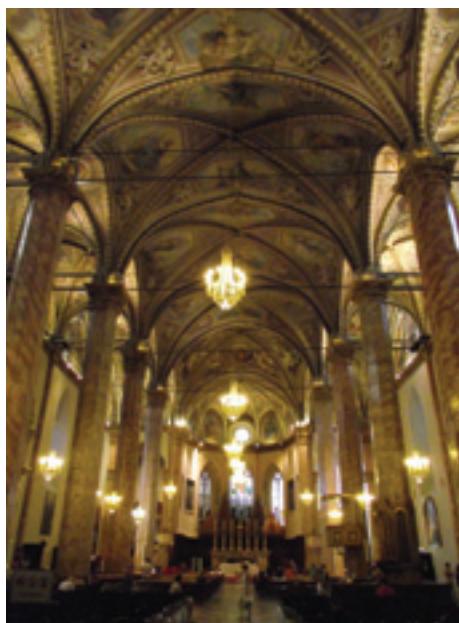
It is the seat of an important, old university, with many foreign students as well. Founded by the Umbri, the city was later settled by the Etruscans, the Romans, the Byzantines and the Lombards.



The central Palazzo dei Priori, in Perugia.

After becoming an independent 'commune' and, later, passing to the Papal States, the city finally became part of the Kingdom of Italy in 1860.

The city has considerable remains of its Umbrian and Etruscan legacy, and a well-preserved medieval nucleus. The elegant **Palazzo dei Priori** houses the **Galleria Nazionale dell'Umbria**, a remarkable collection of paintings by Beato Angelico, Piero della Francesca, Duccio di Buoninsegna and Il Perugino, as well as sculptures by Arnolfo di Cambio and Francesco di Giorgio Martini. Other landmarks include the 15th-century **cathedral**, dedicated to the patron San Lorenzo, the famous **Maggiore fountain** by Nicola and Giovanni Pisano, the **Collegio del Cambio** with a series of frescoes by Il Perugino, the **oratory of San Bernardino**, and the **Rocca Paolina** by Antonio da Sangallo il Giovane. The city boasts a long theatrical tradition.



The interior of the cathedral of S. Lorenzo, in Perugia.



It is a prestigious art city, an international tourism destination, as well as a leading economic and trade centre: its chief activities include the service industry and handicraft, especially art pottery, lacemaking and needlework. Perugia was hometown to Luisa Spagnoli (born Sargentini, 1877–Parigi 1935), a resourceful and imaginative businesswoman in the confectionery sector, who is said to have invented the popular “Baci Perugina” in 1922. These bite-size hazelnut chocolates, wrapped in a love note, are still a top-seller both in Italy and abroad. Perugia hosts one of the biggest jazz festivals annually in July.

The list of Giro d’Italia stage winners in Perugia, “the city of the griffin”, includes Costante Girardengo (1921), Giuseppe Enrici (1924), Learco Guerra (1931), Aldo Baito (1946), Giordano Cottur (1947), Desiré Ketelbeer (Bel, 1948), Fritz Scaher (Sui, 1950), Pietro Giudici (1951), Rino Benedetti (1955), Antonio Bailetti (1962), Michele Dancelli (1965), Mario Beccia (1979) and Ron Kiefel (Usa, 1985). In 1995, it hosted the big start of the 78th Giro d’Italia.

## KM 5

### ELLERA ➤ PERUGIA ➤ UMBRIA

The route first passes through the hilltop village of **Ellera**, a frazione of Corciano, that was the birthplace of the professional rider Carlo Brugnami (1938–2018).

## KM 10

### MAGIONE ➤ PERUGIA ➤ UMBRIA

**Magione**, next along the route, lies on the eastern shore of Lake Trasimeno.

Notable landmarks here include the castle of the Knights of Malta, with sturdy towers, and the nearby church of San Giovanni Battista. There is a famous circuit in the town, called Autodromo dell’Umbria, and named after Mario Umberto Borzacchini, a successful motor racing driver and a great friend of Tazio Nuvolari’s, who died in a racing crash at the Monza racetrack in 1933.



A view of Lake Trasimeno.

KM 45

## CHIUSI ➤ SIENA ➤ TUSCANY

Past the **intersections to Mugnano** and **Orvieto**, the route enters the province of Siena (Tuscany), passing through **Chiusi Scalo** and **Chiusi**. This lovely village in the Valdichiana is a town of long history, with different archaeological sites and beautiful architectural landmarks such as the Romanesque **Duomo** and the **National Archaeological Museum**. It is a leading industrial and agricultural centre, with major produce being oil and wine. The route also passes through the lovely frazione of **Querce al Pino**.



The Duomo of Chiusi.



KM 60

## CHIANCIANO TERME ➤ SIENA ➤ TUSCANY



The remains of the city walls in Chianciano Terme.



**Chianciano Terme**, next along the route, is a renowned spa town located between the Val d'Orcia and the Valdichiana. The old nucleus is still partly enclosed by mediaeval walls. Major landmarks here include the 13th-century **Palazzo del Podestà**, the **church of San Giovanni Battista** and the 18th-century **Palazzo dell'Arcipretura**, now housing a sacred art museum. Local economy is centred mainly on spa tourism and on related activities.

KM 85

## SAN QUIRICO D'ORCIA ➤ SIENA ➤ TUSCANY

The route passes through **La Foce** (with a beautiful villa and a large, monumental garden), enters the municipal territory of Pienza through **Borgo Castelvecchio** (with the historic Palazzo Piccolomini), merges onto the **Via Cassia** and arrives in

**San Quirico d'Orcia**, an ancient village with lovely views and artistic details. Notable landmarks include the 13th-century collegiate church and the beautiful Horti Leonini, a two-level mid-16th century Italian garden. A large pool located in the central square (referred to as "piazza delle sorgenti") of the hamlet of Bagno Vignoni contains the hot and steaming waters of an underground volcanic spring, which also gush down a steep slope. People bathe in the rushing water to treat their body aches.

From here on, the going gets tough and – as they say – the tough get going, as the riders will be met by four steep dirt-road sectors, totalling 35 kilometres.



The "piazza delle sorgenti" in Bagno Vignoni, a 'frazione' of San Quirico D'Orcia.

## KM 95

### ○ TORRENIERI ➤ SIENA ➤ TUSCANY

**Torrenieri** is a frazione of Montalcino, sitting strategically at the confluence of different roads. Here, at nearly 70 kilometres out, the route takes in the first dirt-road sector, running downhill for 9 km. **Buonconvento**, next along the route, is listed as one of the most beautiful villages in Italy: the old nucleus is still enclosed by 14th-century walls, and notable landmarks include the 14th-century cathedral, many fine churches, and the Palazzo del

Podestà. It is a lively agricultural centre, and a major destination for international tourism. Its chief activities also include manufacturing and handicraft.

Buonconvento was the birthplace of the late Mauro Bellugi (1950–Milan 2021), a successful defender who played for several major teams.



View of Torrenieri.

KM 115



## CASTIGLION DEL BOSCO ➤ SIENA ➤ TUSCANY

Past **Bibbiano**, the second dirt-road sector rises for 13.5 kilometres through the unique landscape of the "Crete Senesi". An intermediate sprint is set in **Castiglion del Bosco**. The village falls within the municipal territory of Montalcino, and is home to a popular tourist resort. Past **La Prata**, the riders will then negotiate a 3rd category climb up to **Passo del Lume Spento** (600 m), along the road that connected Monte Amiata, the Maremma and Montalcino, not far from a Capuchin Friary. This was a windy place, and carriage lamps would often be blown out when getting through here, hence its name (which translates as "the pass where the lights go out").



KM 135



## CASTELNUOVO DELL'ABATE ➤ SIENA ➤ TUSCANY

In **Castelnuovo dell'Abate**, where the major landmark is the 12th-century Abbey of Sant'Antimo, a fine example of Tuscan Romanesque style and a UNESCO World Heritage site, the riders will negotiate the second intermediate sprint. At the end of the descent, the route will take in the third dirt-road sector (7.6 km), leading uphill to the mediaeval village of **Sant'Angelo in Colle**. After descending all the way to the **cross-road to Argiano**, the route takes in the fourth – the shortest and final – dirt-road sector (5.6 km), which ends in **Tavernelle**.



Castelnuovo dell'Abate.

KM 160



## PASSO DEL LUME SPENTO ➤ SIENA ➤ TUSCANY

As the stage is back to paved road, the route continues to rise. After passing through **La Prata**, the riders will negotiate another 3rd category climb up to **Passo del Lume Spento** (600 metres). The finish is a little less than 4 kilometres away.

## FINISH



## MONTALCINO ➤ SIENA ➤ TUSCANY

The territory of **Montalcino** is the largest of the province of Siena. Its name is always associated with that of Brunello wine. Every aspect of grape cultivation, wine making and ageing is carefully supervised and regulated by the local union of producers – the Consorzio del Vino Brunello di Montalcino – under a strict production protocol. This fine wine strengthens and promotes the added value of this historical territory and terroir, a treasure chest brimming with natural, monumental and cultural splendour.



*The Town Hall of Montalcino.*



*The 14-century church of Sant'Agostino, in Montalcino.*

Montalcino has a population of around 6,000. First settled by the Etruscans and, later, by the Romans, the town has a rich history, and a late-mediaeval urban structure. Notable sights include the **Town Hall**, the 14th-century **churches of Sant'Agostino and Sant'Egidio**, the two cloisters of the seminary, and the 16th-century **monastery** that houses the **Museo Diocesano**.

In the second half of the stage, the riders will relive the excitement that they have experienced since the first professional edition of the Eroica, organised by RCS Sport in 2007, and later named Strade Bianche in 2009. Previously, the race had been running as a historical cycle-tourism event since 1997, as organised by a group of local cycling enthusiasts along the “dirt roads” of Siena, under the direction of Gian Carlo Brocci. Montalcino hosted Giro d’Italia stage finishes in 1987, with victory going to Moreno Argentin, and in 2010: that year, the Aussie legend Cadel Evans (who at that time was the defending World Champion) sealed his first and only Giro victory, under the cold and rain, along the dirt-road sectors where many of his opponents crashed.

# TUSCANY

Tuscany is in central Italy. It borders Liguria to the northwest, Emilia-Romagna to the north, Marche and Umbria to the east, and Lazio to the south. To the west, the coastline is washed by the Ligurian Sea to the north, and the Tyrrhenian Sea to the south. The shore is mostly sandy beaches, with a number of rocky stretches. As well as the regional capital Firenze (Eng. Florence), the other provincial capitals are Arezzo, Grosseto, Livorno, Lucca, Massa-Carrara, Pistoia, Prato and Siena.

Present-day Tuscany corresponds closely to ancient Etruria – inhabited by the Etruscans – then Tuscia and finally Toscana (Eng. Tuscany). The landscape is mostly hilly and mountainous, with flatlands covering barely 10% of the region. The islands Elba, Il Giglio, Capraia, Montecristo and Pianosa all belong to Tuscany. The Arno is the main river.

The regional economy is based mainly on the tertiary sector, thanks mostly to tourism in the region's great artistic and cultural cities, and at its beaches around Versilia and Grosseto. There are thermals spas at Chianciano Terme, Montecatini Terme, and Saturnia, and mountain tourism around the Abetone and Mount Amiata. Rural tourism is a growth area, based around the warm, welcoming 'agriturismo' farmhouse accommodation. The enchanting landscapes of the Chianti area, in particular, attract vast numbers of overseas visitors. As well as the many industrial centres distributed throughout the region, agriculture and winemaking remain major economic forces. Six wines are certified DOCG ('Controlled and guaranteed designation of origin'): they are Carmignano, Brunello di Montalcino, Chianti, Morellino di Scansano, Vernaccia di San Gimignano and Vino Nobile di Montepulciano. Tuscany's olive oils are also highly prized. The Tuscan cigar, made of local tobacco leaves, is also world famous. The port of Livorno is the most important of many in the region, with sea links to the islands and recreational sailing.

The beautiful city of Arezzo, full of monuments and artistic treasures, is economically dynamic, with a noteworthy gold-working milieu. Grosseto, the capital of the Maremma; Livorno and its port; Lucca with its city walls and prestigious architecture; the mountainous Garfagnana and Versilia with its beaches, Massa-Carrara with the Alpi Apuane (Eng. Apuan Alps) and its highly valued white marble; Pisa with the unique and spectacular Piazza dei Miracoli, packed with architectural marvels and the world-famous Leaning Tower; and, nearby, the ancient town of Volterra. Pistoia with its nurseries of plants and flowers; the village of Collodi, associated with Pinocchio, the children's book by Carlo Lorenzini (1826-1890), who used the pen name Carlo Collodi. Industrious Prato with its medieval centre and, finally, extraordinary Siena with its artistic treasures, the medieval villages of Pienza and San Gimignano and the surrounding area, and the century-long tradition of the Palio.

Tuscan cuisine is varied and delicious. The main dishes from the peasant traditions are as follows: bistecca alla fiorentina, taglio di vitellone, lardo di Colonnata, pappa al pomodoro, pici (thick, hand-rolled pasta, like fat spaghetti, from Siena), ribollita (potage made with bread and vegetables), testaroli (from Lunigiana), trippa, either alla fiorentina, or 'lampredotto'. Other specialities include Livorno fish soup, known as 'cacciucco'; 'fettunta', a variety of bruschetta; finocchiona, a kind of salami flavoured with fennel seeds, game, and many, many more. Sweets include 'cantuccini' biscuits eaten with vin

Santo dessert wine, brigidini di Lamporecchio, castagnaccio, cialde di Montecatini, and, from Siena, panforte and ricciarelli.

In cycling, Gino Bartali entered the history and folklore of Italy. Then follow Gastone Nencini, Franco Bitossi, the late Franco Ballerini, Franco Chioccioli, Mario Cipollini, Michele Bartoli and Paolo Bettini, twice world champion. And there are many, many others: the unforgettable Fiorenzo Magni, who died in 2012, and his great friend Alfredo Martini (1921-2014). A man of noble mind and great moral stance, within and beyond cycling. A uniquely wise, compassionate man and referee, who is recognised and remembered dearly. Thanks to Tuscany's passion and warmth, the Giro d'Italia is truly at home here, with milestone moments in its long history. On top of that, a number of long-standing Classics confirm the region's fondness for cycling.

# NOTE

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

# NOTE

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



12

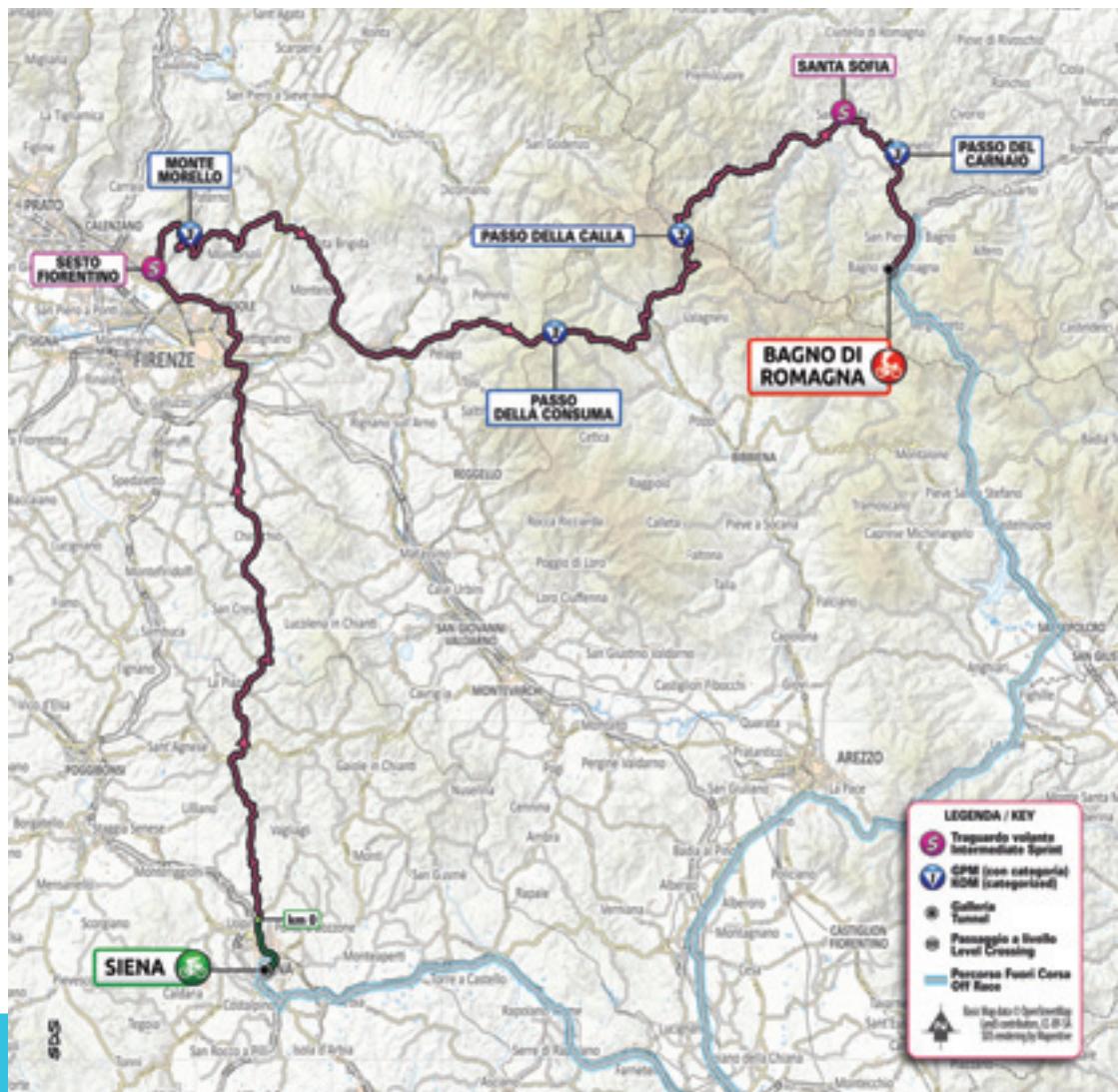
# SIENA – BAGNO DI ROMAGNA

**KM 212**



20.05.2021  
**THURSDAY**

# SIENA - BAGNO DI ROMAGNA



Stage 12 is played out along the Apennine ridge between Tuscany and Emilia-Romagna. The route recalls two leading figures of Italian cycling, Gino Bartali and Alfredo Martini.

The profile is wavy and hilly, especially in the second part, where bold overall contenders may dare to attack and break away.

## START



**SIENA** ➤ **SIENA** ➤ **TUSCANY**

The stage is dropped in the centre of **Siena**, a city of great beauty and charm, and a UNESCO World Heritage site since 1995.

The city now has a population of around 55,000 inhabitants. It developed along the Via Cassia starting in the 9th century, achieving its utmost splendour between the 12th and the 16th century. Its core urban layout has remained mostly unchanged.

Notable monuments include the **Duomo**, completed in the late 1300s, that contains extremely valuable artworks.

**Piazza del Campo**, the symbol of the city, has a unique shell shape. Standing alongside the square is the elegant **Palazzo Pubblico** (1297–1342). Made from bricks and cotto tiles, it is a masterpiece of Gothic Tuscan architecture. Partly converted into a museum, it holds a collection of valuable artworks. To the left of the palace rises the slender 102-metre **Torre del Mangia**. Siena, a lively hub of culture, is home to an ancient university that dates back to 1240, and to other major institutions such as the Accademia Musicale Chigiana.

Dating back to the 13th century, the legendary and world-renowned **Palio** is held twice a year (on July 2 and on August 16).

The regulation hasn't changed since 1656, and neither have the 17 Contrade (the city neighbourhoods, since 1729). The excitement for this event has never faltered. Siena was the birthplace of the poet and writer Cecco Angiolieri (1260 ca.–1311/13), and of St. Catherine of Siena (1347–Rome 1380), the patron saint of Italy together with St. Francis of Assisi, and one of the patron saints of Europe.

Siena was a commercial and banking city already back in the



*The iconic Piazza del Campo, in Siena.*



*A moment of the Palio di Siena.*





Middle Ages. Established in 1472, the Monte dei Paschi di Siena is one of the oldest banks in the world. International tourism is one of the main drivers of local economy.

Traditional local cuisine offers a wealth of delicacies. Typical desserts include panforte, pan pepato and ricciarelli. First courses include pici all'aglione (thick hand-rolled spaghetti that pair perfectly with pan-fried garlic). Prized culinary specialties also include cold cuts made from "cinta senese" pork, and fine local wines.

The list of Giro d'Italia stage winners in Siena includes Eberardo Pavesi in 1913, Mario Bianchi in 1929, Adolfo Leoni in 1948, Antonio Bevilacqua in 1952, the Spaniard Miguel Poblet in 1957, Francesco Moser in 1978 and, finally, the Pole Lech in 1986 (in the ITT starting from Sinalunga).

The first road stage finish in Piazza del Campo was at the Memorial Cecchi Gori, organised by Adriano Amici's G.S. Emilia, in 1999.

## KM 5



### QUERCEGROSSA ➤ SIENA ➤ TUSCANY

Right after the start, the route passes through **Quercegrossa**, between Castelnuovo Berardenga and Monteriggioni, in the area known as Chianti. Then comes **Castellina in Chianti**, a lovely village with beautiful buildings and a valuable archaeological heritage. Notable landmarks include the 14th-century Rocca, standing alongside the main square, which now houses the Museo Archeologico del Chianti Senese. The route passes Santa Maria a Grignano and enters the province of Florence.

## KM 30



### PANZANO IN CHIANTI ➤ FLORENCE ➤ TUSCANY

The route passes through **Panzano in Chianti** and **Greve in Chianti**. The town has beautiful churches and the Castle of Verrazzano, and it was the birthplace of the explorer and seafarer Giovanni da Verrazzano (1485-Bahamas 1528 ca.). Notable natives also include Simone Borgheresi (1968), formerly a professional rider for a dozen years.

*The Castle of Verrazzano, in Greve in Chianti.*



KM 45

## STRADA IN CHIANTI > FLORENCE > TUSCANY

The route passes through **Strada in Chianti**, **Grassina** and **Ponte a Ema**, not far from Florence. The village was the birthplace (and is now the burial site) of Gino Bartali (1914-2000) and of his brother Giulio (1916-1936), who died in a racing accident. The local Museo Gino Bartali is a sign of how much Gino was loved.

KM 60

## FIRENZE > FLORENCE > TUSCANY

The race passes through **Badia a Ripoli**, entering the municipal territory of **Flor-  
ence**. The colourful caravan of the Giro will zip across the urban streets for approximately 14 kilometres, offering stunning views, up to the populous district of **Rifredi**, north-west of the city. Florence was the birthplace of leading historical figures such as the poet Dante Alighieri, who died 700 years ago.



*The Abbey of San Bartolomeo, in Badia a Ripoli.*



KM 75

## SESTO FIORENTINO > FLORENCE > TUSCANY

**Sesto Fiorentino**, next along the route, has a population of less than 50,000. It holds fond, loving memories of Alfredo Martini – a fair, wise man and referee, and a talented coach – and of his friends Franco Vita and Marco Mordini. Born in nearby Calenzano on February 18, 1921, Alfredo was first a skilful rider and, later, a successful Sport Director. He died in Sesto Fiorentino on August 25, 2014. To celebrate the 100th anniversary of his birth, the first intermediate sprint is set here.

KM 85



## MONTE MORELLO ➤ FLORENCE ➤ TUSCANY

From here on, the stage profile becomes rough. The route passes through **Collina** and takes in a 3rd category climb to an elevation of 598 m, in **Monte Morello**. At 13 km in length, the road rises with average 6% gradients, and peaks topping out at 20%.

Passing through **Montorsoli** and **Pratolino** (where main sights include the beautiful Villa Demidoff, built over a former Medici villa), the route enters the municipal territory of Vaglia.



View of Florence from Monte Morello.

The famous Bar Zocchi in Pratolino is a favoured spot for local cycling enthusiasts. It belonged to Marisa Zocchi, one of the contestants of the popular Italian game show “Lascia o raddoppia?”. In 1956, she won a whopping 2.5 million lire (answering questions about cycling), which she used to cover the costs of medical treatments for her sick mother. Her husband Guido Boni (whom she married in 1957) was born in nearby Vicchio in 1933. He was a successful professional rider from 1954 to 1963, and after he retired, he helped Marisa run her café.

The route continues along the gentle rolling hills, passing through **Vetta le Croci** and the tiny hamlet of **Le Sieci**, in the municipal territory of Pontassieve, along river Arno.

KM 130



## PASSO DELLA CONSUMA ➤ AREZZO ➤ TUSCANY

Here, the road starts to rise up to 1,060 metres, passing through **Borselli** and heading towards the 2nd category **Passo della Consuma**. Running among the beech woods, the chestnut groves and the oak forests, the route enters the province of Arezzo.

**Stia**, next along the descent, is a well-preserved mediaeval village that lies at the foot of Mount Falterona. It was the birthplace of the painter and mosaic artist Paolo Uccello (1397–Florence 1475).



Panorama from the Passo della Consuma.

KM 160



## PASSO DELLA CALLA > AREZZO > TUSCANY

Here, the route starts to rise with steady gradients for 15 or so kilometres, up to the second-category **Passo della Calla**, marking the passage to the province of Forlì-Cesena (Emilia-Romagna). A fast-running descent then leads all the way through **Corniolo**, **Berleta**, **Isola**, **Santa Sofia**, **Raggio** and **Montriolo**. The stage is now in the so-called Romagna Toscana, a large area that historically belonged to the Grand Duchy of Tuscany.

KM 200



## PASSO DEL CARNAIO > FORLÌ-CESENA > EMILIA-ROMAGNA

The route takes in a 3rd category climb up **Passo del Carnaio** (770 m), and then descends quickly, passing through **San Piero in Bagno**, the main and most populous town in the Valle del Savio.

FINISH



## BAGNO DI ROMAGNA > FORLÌ-CESENA > EMILIA-ROMAGNA

**Bagno di Romagna** hosts another Giro stage finish as it did in 2017, when victory went to the Spaniard Omar Fraile.

The town was known for its medicinal hot springs back in ancient Rome, as demonstrated by archaeological findings, and is still a popular spa centre. The town has two beautiful 18th-century bridges, and a spacious square lined with elegant 17- and 18-century buildings.

Major architectural landmarks include the 15th-century Basilica of **Santa Maria Assunta** and the 16th-century **Palazzo Pretorio**.



The Basilica of Santa Maria Assunta, in Bagno di Romagna.



# NOTE

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



13

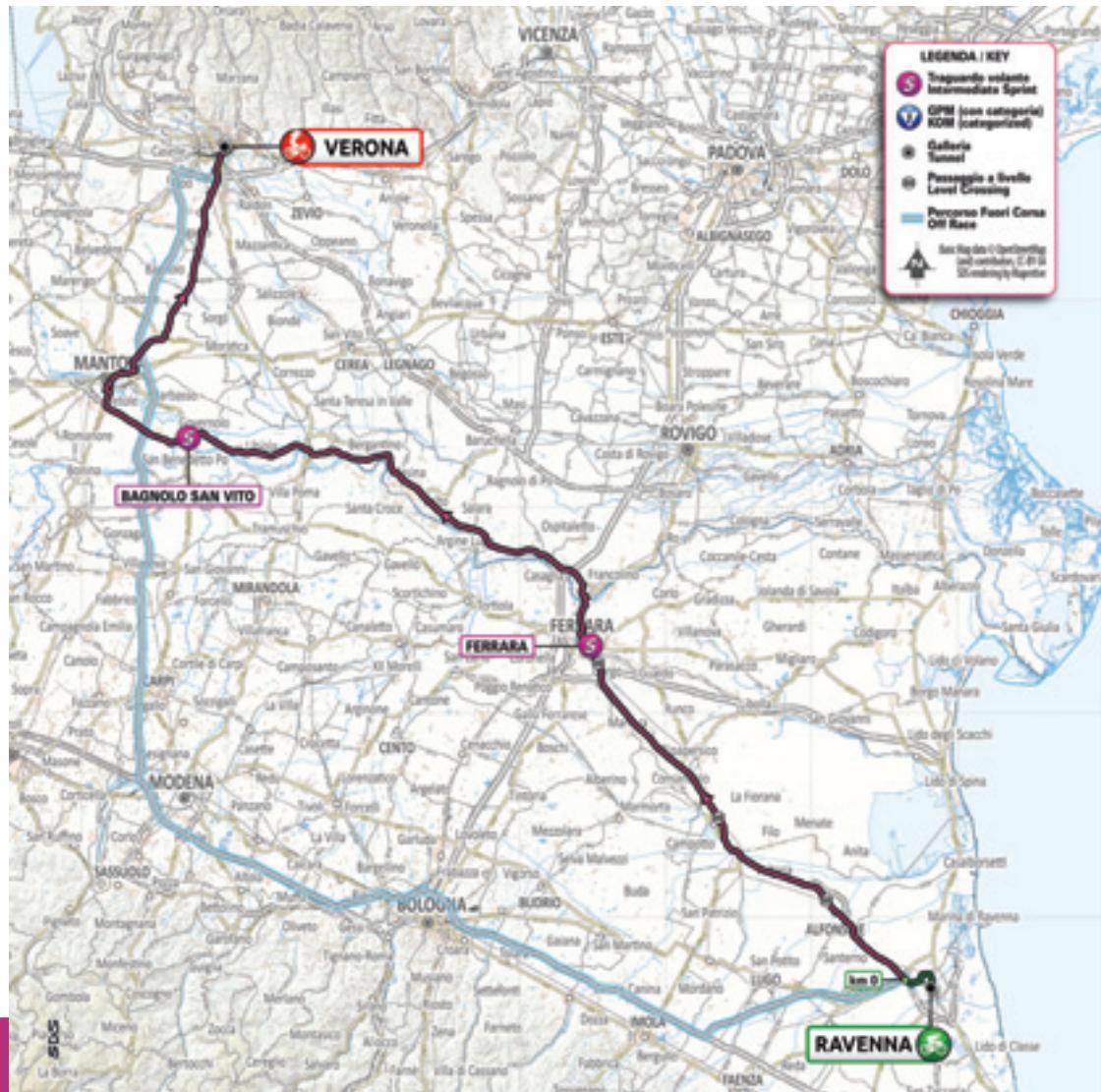
# RAVENNA – VERONA

**KM 198**



21.05.2021  
**FRIDAY**

## RAVENNA - VERONA



The plain is back quite substantially in the 13th stage that kicks off from Ravenna and, crossing the Po Valley vertically, sets the finish in Verona. It is a red-letter stage for the sprinters in the peloton.



## START



RAVENNA ➤ RAVENNA ➤ EMILIA-ROMAGNA



*The Basilica of San Vitale in Ravenna.*



The Giro d'Italia, with a stage start in **Ravenna**, is going to pay homage to Dante Alighieri as part of the celebrations commemorating the 700th anniversary of his death.

Ravenna is renowned for its artistic legacy: first of all, the art of mosaics, which embellishes its religious buildings, listed as UNESCO World Heritage Sites in December 1996, including the **Basilica of San Vitale**, the **Mausoleum of Galla Placidia**, the **Basilica of Sant'Apollinare Nuova** and that of **Sant'Apollinare in Classe**, and the **Mausoleum of Theodoric**.

Through its history Ravenna was the capital of several empires, then it came under the rule of the Republic of Venice in the 15th century and the Papal State in the 16th century.

Sergio Zavoli (1923–Rome 2020), journalist, writer, politician, conceiver and unsurpassed host of the popular tv broadcast *Processo alla Tappa* was born here.

*The Mausoleum of Theodoric in Ravenna, from the 4<sup>th</sup> century.*

Ravenna, with its beaches, was a stage city in 1931 with victory going to Learco Guerra. Later, Cino Cinelli (1938), Pasqualino Fornara (in the 1955 individual time trial), Pietro Zoppas (1964), Luigi Sgarbozza (1968), Marino Basso (1972), and Mark Cavendish (2011) all claimed a victory here.

## KM 5



GLORIE ➤ RAVENNA ➤ EMILIA-ROMAGNA

Past Ravenna, the route heads north across the Po Valley. It rolls through **Glorie**, a hamlet of Bagnacavallo, then **Alfonsine**, the birthplace of Vincenzo Monti (1754–Milan 1828), poet, writer and playwright.



KM 30



## LAVEZZOLA ➤ RAVENNA ➤ EMILIA-ROMAGNA

In **Lavezzola**, a hamlet of Monselice, crossed the river Reno, the route reaches the province of Ferrara, passing **Argenta**, not far from the Po Delta.

KM 70



## FERRARA ➤ FERRARA ➤ EMILIA-ROMAGNA



*The Castello Estense in Ferrara.*



*The Palazzo dei Diamanti in Ferrara, with the characteristic diamond-shaped external ashlar.*

After passing the junctions of Portomaggiore - the birthplace of Dino Bruni (1932), winner of stages in the Giro and the Tour - Monestiolo and the motorway junction, the route reaches **Ferrara**, the historic capital city.

The current layout of the city centre is the result of an impressive urban planning by the architect Biagio Rossetti, which began at the end of the 14th century with the construction of the imposing **Castello Estense**. The city's architectural legacy includes **Palazzo del Comune**, the **Palazzo dei Diamanti**, **Palazzo Schifanoia** and the **Cathedral of San Giorgio**.

Since 1995, Ferrara has been listed as UNESCO World Heritage site for its historic centre and, since 1999, for the Po Delta and the "delizie estensi", i.e., the leisure villas scattered throughout the territory.

The musician Girolamo Frescobaldi (1583-1643), the religious and political Girolamo Savonarola (1452-1498 Florence) and the film director Michelangelo Antonioni (1912-Rome 2007) were born in Ferrara. Here the riders will fight for the stage's first intermediate sprint.

Ferrara has hosted stage finishes since 1919, victory going to the Swiss Oscar Egg; then again in 1932 (Fabio Battesini), 1933 (Alfredo Binda), 1934 (Learco Guerra), 1936 (Raffaele Di Paco), 1940 e 1950 (second win for Adolfo Leoni), 1957 (the Spaniard Miguel Poblet), and 1981 (Paolo Rosola).

## KM 75

### PONTELAGOSCURO ➤ FERRARA ➤ EMILIA-ROMAGNA

In the industrial district of **Pontelagoscuro** the route crosses the River Po and enters the province of Rovigo, Veneto.

Past the A13-Occhiobello junction, the route runs across **Stienta**, birthplace of the Pro Virgilio Zuffi (1908-Grosseto 1998), **Gaiba** and then **Calto**.

## KM 110

### BERGANTINO ➤ ROVIGO ➤ VENETO

The route passes the **Castelnuovo Bariano** junction and reaches **Bergantino**, an area based on agriculture and the amusement park industry. Its Museum of Rides and Travelling Folk Shows is a centre for cultural research and historical documentation.



## KM 120

### OSTIGLIA ➤ MANTUA ➤ LOMBARDY

Rolling through Melara, the race caravan leaves Veneto and enters Lombardy, in the province of Mantua, where it finds **Ostiglia**. In the centre of the town, main sights include **Palazzo Bonazzi-Cavriani**, from the end of the 18th century, now the seat of the city hall, and the **parish church of the Assunta**.

Arnoldo Mondadori, who was born in nearby Poggio Rusco (1889-Milan 1971), opened the first office of his publishing house in Ostiglia. The route then reaches **Sustinente** and passes **Governolo**, a hamlet of Roncoferraro.



Palazzo Bonazzi-Cavriani in Ostiglia, the seat of the town council.



KM 145



## BAGNOLO SAN VITO ➤ MANTUA ➤ LOMBARDY

The route continues until the second intermediate sprint at **Bagnolo San Vito**, between the Po and Mincio rivers.

Bagnolo San Vito is the birthplace of Learco Antenore Giuseppe Guerra (1902–Milano 1963), aka “the human locomotive”, a powerful rouleur and sprinter, who historically was Afredo Binda’s competing rival. With amazing prize record, he later became a sports director and a bicycle manufacturer.

He was the first to wear the Maglia Rosa, as soon as it was introduced in 1931 by winning the first stage, Milan–Mantua, of the 1931 Giro d’Italia 90 years ago.

The route then runs through **Cerese**, a hamlet of Borgo Virgilio, and hometown of the poet Publio Virgilio Marone (70 B.C.–Brindisi 19 B.C.) and the rider Luigi Tasselli – gold medal at the 1928 Amsterdam Olympics in the team.

KM 160



## MANTUA ➤ MANTUA ➤ LOMBARDY

Immediately afterwards, the peloton enters **Mantua** (population approx. 50,000), which has been listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site as a city of art since 2008. Mantua’s major landmarks include some prestigious historical buildings, such as the **Broletto** with the nearby **Rotonda di San Lorenzo**, the **church of San Francesco** and **Palazzo Bonacolsi**. In the beautiful Piazza Sordello stands the **Ducal Palace** with the **Castle of San Giorgio**. The famous **Palazzo Te** is a masterpiece by Giulio Romano.

Pumpkin tortelli, “sbrisolona”, salami and cured meats are the leading specialties of Mantuan gastronomy. Auro Bulbarelli (1970), journalist and writer, who followed his parents’ footsteps (both Rino and Giovanna were journalists), for a long time the cycling commentator at the Rai and current director of Rai Sport, is of Mantuan origin.

*The Rotonda di San Lorenzo, dating back to the 11th century.*



Mantua hosted stage finishes in 1923, victory going to Alfredo Sivocci, in 1931 (Learco Guerra), 1935 (Domenico Piemontesi), 1946 (Elio Bertocchi), 1956 (Miguel Poblet), 1967 (Michele Dancelli), 1971 (Marino Basso), 1981 (Claudio Torelli), 1983 (Bianchi in the team time trial), and 1989 (the Swiss Urs Freuler).

The race leaves Mantua and passes **Ghisiole**, a hamlet of San Giorgio Bigarello, to reach **Castelbelforte** before returning to Veneto, in the province of Verona, through **Vigasio**, the birthplace of Lino Carletto (1943) – an athlete in the Italian team both as an U23 and a Pro road rider. The route arrives in **Castel d'Azzano** and then enters Verona, passing by its famous Trade Fair.

## FINISH



**Verona** is the second largest city in Veneto and lies on the banks of the river Adige (population approx. 260,000). The historic centre was listed as UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2000.

**Piazza delle Erbe** is the ancient heart of Verona and **Piazza Bra** is a large and characteristic square. Other major landmarks include the neoclassical **Palazzo Barbieri** – the seat of the town council, the aristocratic **Piazza dei Signori**, with a monument commemorating Dante Alighieri, and the **basilica of San Zeno**, outstanding example of Romanesque style.

The magnificent **Arena**, a Roman amphitheatre dating back to the 1st century, hosts large-scale, spectacular performances, first of all Opera festivals.



*Palazzo Barbieri, now the town hall of Verona.*





The name of Verona is worldwide associated with Romeo and Juliet, the two protagonists of the tragedy written by William Shakespeare at the end of the 17th century.



*The Basilica  
of San Zeno,  
a masterpiece  
of Lombard  
Romanesque style*

Here the Giro d'Italia has conceived a spectacular setting for more than one grand finish – necessarily historical ITT stages of the Corsa Rosa. The first one in this ‘serial novel’ was the Soave–Verona ITT stage when the victory went to the Norwegian Knut Knudsen, in 1981, while Giovanni Battaglin, who had just won the Vuelta, took the Maglia Rosa and became the first rider from Veneto to win the Giro. Another famous chapter was the 1984 final ITT. Francesco Moser snatched the Maglia Rosa from the late Laurent Fignon. In 2010 the city cheered the overall champion Ivan Basso; in 2019 the overall victory went to the Ecuadorean Richard Carapaz, wearing the pink jersey, while the USA rider Chad Haga nailed the stage win.

The list of stage winners in Verona include Arturo Ferrario in 1924, Costante Girardengo (1926), Alfredo Binda, who won twice (1926 and 1927), Gino Bartali (1940), Oreste Conte (1946), Rik Van Steenbergen (1957), Miguel Poblet (1959), André Darrigade (1960), Mino Bariviera (1964), Ole Ritter (in the 1967 ITT), Rik Van Linden (1973), Ercole Gualazzini (1978), Knut Knudsen (in the 1981 ITT), Francesco Moser (in the 1984 and 1985 ITTs), Mirco Gualdi (1987), Paolo Savoldelli (in the 2007 ITT), Gustav Larsson (in the 2010 ITT), Chad Haga (in the 2019 ITT). Two successful World Road Championships were held here. In the Pro road race, the victory went to the Spanish champion Oscar Freire in both editions.

# VENETO

**Veneto** is a region in northeast Italy sharing borders with Trentino-Alto Adige/Südtirol, Austria, Emilia-Romagna, Lombardy and Friuli-Venezia Giulia, and washed by the Adriatic Sea. The regional capital is Venice; the other provinces are Belluno, Padua, Rovigo, Treviso, Verona and Vicenza.

Its many landscapes go from the beaches of the coastal strip, to broad plains in the centre and south, to the gentle **Berici** and **Euganean** hills, and the mountains that reach their peak on the Marmolada, in the splendid **Dolomites**, at 3,343 m.

Veneto attracts more tourists than any other Italian region. The amazing, unique beauty of **Venice** is world-renowned. **Verona** has its Roman Arena and the fascinating story of Romeo and Juliet. **Vicenza** and **Padua** have their wonderful artistic, monumental and religious heritage (especially Sant'Antonio in Padua). **Treviso** has its canals, **Belluno** has its mountains and the stunning **Cortina d'Ampezzo**. All these towns, together with **Rovigo**, are major destinations for national and international tourism.

The main beach resorts are **Jesolo**, Caorle, Bibione, Sottomarina and Rosolina. In the mountains, Cortina d'Ampezzo, Arabba, Falcade, and Val Zoldana are the most popular destinations. There are numerous cities and towns with stunning architectural and artistic treasures: the famous **Venetian villas** designed by Andrea Palladio, the **walled towns** – Cittadella, Este, Castelfranco Veneto, Conegliano, Bassano del Grappa, Marostica – that preserve and protect their history and traditions.

On the Venetian shore of Lake Garda, international tourism is highly developed.

The region's universities and academies have a long and prestigious tradition. To give just one name, the playwright Carlo Goldoni (1707-1793) made a major contribution to the development of modern theatre.

Until the period after World War II, Veneto experienced major outmigration. In the 1960s and 1970s, it went through years of rapid industrial growth in many sectors, which raised the standard of living for all.

Local signature produce, along with the famous red radish, includes asparagus from Bassano, beans from Lamon, near Belluno, Marostica cherries, Asiago cheese, soppressa (traditional salami) and other sausages, eel from the Po delta, clams from Polesine.

Traditional local specialties include 'sarde in saor' (Venetian-style sweet and sour sardines), baccalà alla vicentina (Vicenza-style dried cod), fegato alla veneziana (Venetian-style liver), 'risi e bisi' (risotto with peas), risotto 'al nero di seppia' (with squid ink), fish from the Adriatic, 'pinza' (a traditional sweet), and any form of polenta.

Valpolicella, Lugana, Recioto, Amarone, Bardolino, Raboso, Soave and Cabernet are the finest examples of the revered local winemaking tradition. Special mention must be made of the exquisite Prosecco, with its Cartizze grand cru.

The region has produced great champions of past and present cycling, in all its specialties and disciplines.

# NOTE

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

# TROFEO SENZA FINE

## GIRO D'ITALIA OFFICIAL TROPHY

PESO WEIGHT

**9,5 kg**

MATERIALE MATERIAL

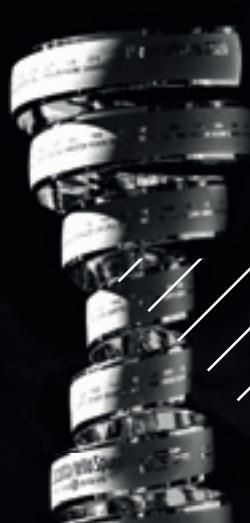
**Rame placcato Oro 18 carati**  
Gold-plated copper 18 carats

MISURE DIMENSIONS

**20.4 cm di diametro** diameter  
**53.5 cm di altezza** height

REALIZZATO PER LA PRIMA VOLTA NEL 1999,  
PREMIA DAL 2000 IL CORRIDORE  
CHE VINCE IL GIRO D'ITALIA.

SINCE 2000, THE TROFEO SENZA FINE  
IS THE AWARD OF THE GIRO D'ITALIA  
WINNER. IT WAS REALIZED  
FOR THE FIRST TIME IN 1999.





# VENETO

## TERRA DI SITI PATRIMONIO UNESCO

LE COLLINE DEL PROSECCO DI CONEGLIANO E VALDOBBIADENE, VENEZIA E LA SUA LAGUNA, DOLOMITI,  
CITTÀ DI VERONA, CITTÀ DI VICENZA E VILLE PALLADIANE DEL VENETO, ORTO BOTANICO DI PADOVA,  
LE OPERE DI DIFESA VENEZIANE TRA XVI E XVII SECOLO, I SITI PALAFITTICOLI PREISTORICI DELL'ARCO ALPINO.



14

# CITTADELLA – MONTE ZONCOLAN

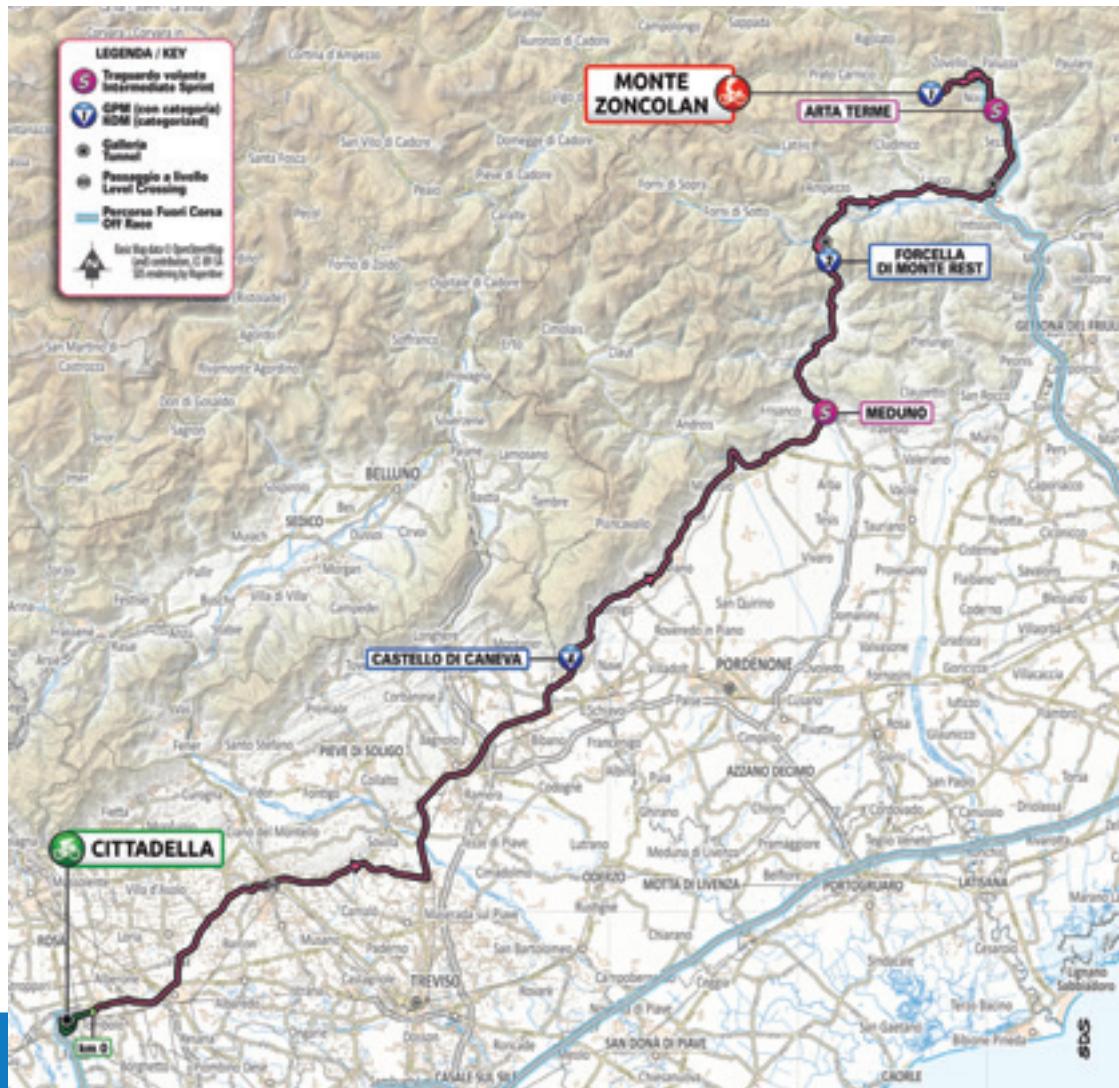
**KM 205**



22.05.2021  
**SATURDAY**



# CITTADELLA - MONTE ZONCOLAN



Veneto hosts stage 14. After the flat route of the previous day, the race is back in the mountains and finishes uphill on a recent yet already internationally famous climb up Monte Zoncolan in Friuli-Venezia Giulia.



## START

 CITTADELLA > PADUA > VENETO

The start is set in an area imbued with passion for cycling: **Cittadella** lying in the plain north of Padua on the banks of river Brenta. The city (population 20,000) boasts well-preserved walls that surround the medieval centre. Outside the walls, major landmarks include a beautiful Neoclassic Duomo and several exquisite villas.

Cittadella hosted the Italian Championships organised by two former riders Filippo Pozzato and Jonny Moletta (native of Cittadella) in 2020, when Giacomo Nizzolo won the Pro road race, Gaetano Lunardon was also born here. He was the organiser of the Rosina race, and he is now planning to launch again the glorious Giro del Veneto and introduce new races, thus enriching the know-how in cycling race organization of this region.

The 2008 Giro d'Italia featured the Modena-Cittadella stage that finished with the British Mark Cavendish's winning sprint.



*The Duomo, dedicated to the Saints Donato and Prosdocimo.*

## KM 10

 CASTELFRANCO VENETO > TREVISO > VENETO

As the flag drops, the peloton rolls past **Galliera Veneta**, enters immediately the province of Treviso and reaches **Castelfranco Veneto**, (population approx. 35,000) with its renowned medieval castle enclosing the historic core of the city. The 18th-century **Duomo** houses a famous altarpiece by Giorgione, the great painter who was born here (c. 1478-Venice 1510).

*The medieval castle of Castelfranco Veneto.*

Tina Anselmi (1927-2016) – the first woman minister in Italy (1976), the poetess Patrizia Valduga (1953), the singer and songwriter Donatella Rettore (1953), and Francesco Guidolin (1995) – a successful football player, coach and TV commentator who was a keen cyclist – are some of the many personalities of Castelfranco Veneto.

Cycling is a very popular sport, also thanks to the contribution of the Zalf Euromobil-Fior team managed by the passionate Lucchetta brothers and Egidio Fior who testify to an important cycling school. Both Alessandro Ballan, the 2008 World Champion in Varese, and Matteo Tosatto (who holds the record for the highest number of Grand Tours he completed, 28 altogether), were born here.

The city hosted stage finish twice: in 1991 (Silvio Martinello) and in 1999 (Mario Cipollini).

KM 25



## MONTEBELLUNA > TREVISO > VENETO

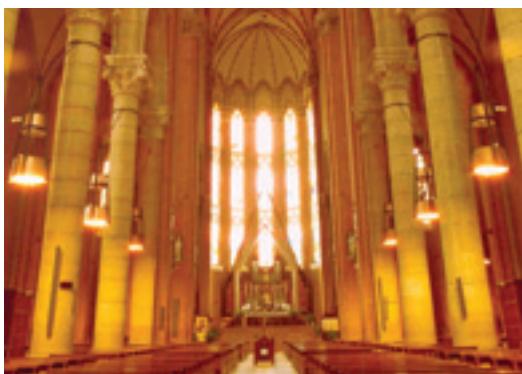
The route passes Riese Pio X, Altivole, Caerano di San Marco and reaches **Montebelluna**, a busy town well-known for its shoe-making firms, at the foot of the Montello. Main sights include the **Duomo of the Immacolata Concezione** and the **church of Saints Lucia and Vittore** that houses the earliest fresco by Tiepolo.



In 2001 Montebelluna hosted a stage finish: victory went to Matteo Tosatto, who was born not far from here.

*The Votive Temple to the European Fraternity in Ponte della Priula.*

The route then passes **Venegazzù**, a hamlet of **Volpago del Montello**, **Arcade**, and **Spresiano**. It reaches **Ponte della Priula**, a hamlet of **Susegana**, where there is a Votive Temple to the European Fraternity with the remains of soldiers from all the nations who fought in the Great War, when the place was the stage for fierce battles.



*The nave of the Duomo in Montebelluna.*

KM 60

## CONEGLIANO ➤ TREVISO ➤ VENETO

The route then reaches **Conegliano**, an important city with over 35,000 inhabitants, with an historical centre lying on the slopes of the Colle Giano. The **Duomo of San Leonardo** houses a valuable altarpiece by Gian Battista Cima, who was born here (c. 1459–1517). Major landmarks include **Sala dei Battuti**, the **Museo Civico of the Castle** and the **chiesa of Sant'Antonio di Padova**. Conegliano and its surroundings are a leading wine-growing area.

There were two stage arrivals of the Giro d'Italia in Conegliano, as well as various departures. In 1977 victory went to Piermattia Gavazzi, and in 2002 Mario Cipollini claimed the win. The popular Gran Gala Ciclistico had been organized here from 1985 to 2014.



*The Duomo in Conegliano, dedicated to San Leonardo.*

The course touches San Vendemiano, San Fior, and Godega di Sant'Urbano before reaching **Orsago**, on the right bank of river Livenza. Past the territory of Cordignano, the peloton enters Friuli-Venezia Giulia, namely the province of Pordenone.

KM 75

## CANEVA ➤ PORDENONE ➤ FRIULI-VENEZIA GIULIA

**Caneva** hosts a cycling museum named after Toni Pessot. The route then clears the short and steep 4th-category climb leading to Castello (179). It is the birthplace of Vito Da Ros (1957), silver medallist in the 1997 TTT in Venezuela.

Past **Sarone** and **Dardago**, the route runs through **Aviano**, with its important Air Force Base. Main sights include the Duomo and the 18th-century Villa Menegozzi. Past **Giais**, a hamlet of Aviano – the birth-



*The piazza in Caneva.*

place of Pietro Paolo Perucchin (1928), a Pro rider holding 15 victories, and Attilio Redolfi (1923-Draguignan 1997), a good Pro for about ten years - the route rolls through **Grizzo**, in the municipal territory of Montereale Valcellina, along the stream Cellina.

KM 110



## MANIAGO ➤ PORDENONE ➤ FRIULI-VENEZIA GIULIA



**Maniago** is an important town surrounded by a typical landscape called "magredi": dried fields with stones. It is a pretty town that still has some ancient walls, the ruins of the **medieval castle** and the 3rd-century **Chapel of San Giacomo**.

It is renowned for its ancient traditional art of knife-making, commemorated in a specific Museum.

In 2014, the Maniago-Monte Zoncolan stage kicked off here. Victory went to Michael Rogers, an "Italian Australian", on the second-last stage of a Giro won by Nairo Quintana.

KM 130



## TRAMONTI DI SOTTO ➤ PORDENONE ➤ FRIULI-VENEZIA GIULIA



*The submerged ancient village appears when Lake Redona withdraws.*

The peloton then clears the first intermediate sprint in **Meduno**, and then enters the municipal territory of **Tramonti di Sopra** with the **dam at Ponte Racli** crossing the river Meduna, and on to the next bridge in **Tramonti di Sotto**. The 50m-high dam forms Lake Redona, which, in dry periods, brings the remains of a submerged village to the surface. The area's excellent gastronomic culture includes the renowned "pitina", sheep or chamois meatballs.

KM 145



## FORCELLA DI MONTE REST ➤ UDINE ➤ FRIULI-VENEZIA GIULIA

Here the route takes in the 1060-m 2nd-category climb up **Forcella di Monte Rest** which connects Val Tramontina with lower Carnia through a winding road on both sides. The mountain pass leads into the province of Udine and, after crossing the Tagliamento river, you reach **Forcella di Priuso** and **Priuso**, hamlets of the municipality of Socchieve, then Enemonzo. Then comes Villa Santina, a town renowned for the production of characteristic linen fabrics decorated with floral motifs, as well as for its "frico", a typical dish of potatoes, onions and melted cheese. The route passes the outskirts of Tolmezzo, a town considered the capital of Carnia, then through the tunnel of **Casanova** to **Zuglio**, in the valley of the But or Canale di San Pietro. The second intermediate sprint is set in **Arta Terme**, a beautiful town with thermal springs. The poet Giosuè Carducci often stayed here.



*View of Lake Tramonti on the way to Passo Rest.*



Arta Terme hosted two stage finishes: in 1970 – victory going to Franco Bitossi – and in 1988 (Stefano Giuliani).

The route skirts the municipal territory of Cercivento and reaches the ancient village of **Sutrio**.

FINISH



## MONTE ZONCOLAN ➤ UDINE ➤ FRIULI-VENEZIA GIULIA

It is time for his Majesty the **Zoncolan**, the emperor of all climbs, to be in the limelight.

In this edition of the *Corsa Rosa* there is some kind of a throwback, as the route climbs up from Sutrio, the side of the Zoncolan when it was an unprecedented mountain in the Giro. It was the finish of stage no. 12: the San Donà di Piave-Zoncolan stage, when the victory went to Gilberto Simoni, a climber who is fond of this area. To be fair, we should mention that the first race that finished here was the 1997 Women's Giro d'Italia. The route climbed the Zoncolan from Sutrio's side (the only one viable) and finished by the Rifugio Moro (1305m), with about 3500 meters to the summit. Fabiana Luperini soloed across the finish line and won that stage.

This year, it is an almost 14km climb from Sutrio (538m) to the 1st-category KOM summit (1730) with a uphill finish. The gradient is not as tough as that on Ovaro's side, the road is average-ly wider, at least until the Rifugio Moro (1350m), and is completely asphalted now, unlike in 2003 when Gilberto Simoni, wearing the pink jersey, claimed the victory ahead of Garzelli by 34" and strengthened his role as overall leader that he kept until the grand finish in Milan.

Atop the mountain there is an important ski resort, with state-of-the-art ski lifts and a view of the whole of Carnia. There will not be any time for a "wee pit stop" near Ovaro, nor will all the convoy cars have to pull over and be replaced by the motorcycles to ensure fair play and neutral assistance to the riders, but the "vertical cycling" entertainment (always cheered and loved by the fans) will definitely not be missing.



*The Sella of Monte Zoncolan.*

A short list of the winners on this mountain: Gilberto Simoni (2003, who won again in 2007 climbing on Ovaro's side), Ivan Basso (2010), the Spaniard Igor Anton (2011), the Australian Michael Rogers (2014), and Chris Froome (2018).

# FRIULI-VENEZIA GIULIA

**Friuli-Venezia Giulia** is a special-status region, historically comprising two areas: Friuli (accounting for about 96% of the territory) and Venezia Giulia (making up the rest, as a result of territorial changes made after World War II). The regional capital, **Trieste**, is one of four administrative provinces: the others are Gorizia, Pordenone and Udine. The region shares borders with Austria, Slovenia, Veneto and the Adriatic Sea.

The history of the region includes **Aquileia**, a Roman colony founded in 181 BC, of which stunning archaeological survivals remain, and, for more than a thousand years, a major religious and administrative centre with its own patriarchate. Then there is **Cividale del Friuli**, founded by Julius Caesar with the name of "Forum Iulii", which gave its name to the entire region, and later became the capital of the Lombard Kingdom. And finally there is **Udine** that became the most important centre in Friuli, and the seat of the patriarchate of Aquileia, starting in the 13th century.

Friuli-Venezia Giulia is a borderland and a meeting point of cultures, which live in harmony there. The very active associations of Fogolars Furlans (which translates as "The hearths of the Friulans") connect Friulans throughout the world by past migration, and perpetuate its deeply felt tradition, starting with the Friulan language.

In the Friulan Mountains, **Sauris**, in the **Val Lumiei**, is the region's highest town at 1212 m. Its prosciutto crudo and speck are delicious. The prosciutto crudo of **San Daniele**, a pretty town on the plain, is internationally renowned. The **Piancavallo** district, in the province of Pordenone, is a popular ski station and a centre of winter and summer tourism. Piancavallo has welcomed many editions of the Giro del Friuli organised by the passionate Ugo Caon, and a stage of the 1998 Giro d'Italia won by Marco Pantani. The hilly **Collio**, above all along the Slovenian border, produces fine wines, especially white, as well as grappa of the highest quality.

The central plain is an area of agriculture and livestock farming, while along the coastline, long, sandy beaches (like the well-known beaches of Lignano, and Grado, with its lagoon) alternate with the magnificent rocky coast around Trieste.

The **Altopiano del Carso** or Karst Plateau, with its distinctive set of phenomena comprising sinkholes, caves, and underground rivers, covers much of the provinces of Gorizia and Trieste.

The regional economy developed rapidly in the second half of the 20th century, with the spread of a dense manufacturing infrastructure, and tourism, followed by shopping centres and service-sector businesses. Among the major tourist attractions are Cividale del Friuli, the old town in Gorizia, Gemona, Palmanova, Villa Manin and Cormons, known to Italians as the hometown of Bruno Pizzul, a popular and beloved TV commentator.

**Trieste**, with its history, monuments, culture and commerce, is a paradigm of an open, cosmopolitan city. **Udine**, with its towering **castle**, its glorious **Duomo**, the **Loggia del Lionello**, the **Archbishop's Palace** with frescoes by Tiepolo, and the **Palace of the Patriarch** attracts tourists from all over the world, every year. Udine University is growing constantly, as is the L. Danieli Science and Technology Park. The smallest province is **Gorizia**, with its beautiful old town.

Many natural and historical-cultural sites in the region have been listed as UNESCO World Heritage, including the Lombard ruins in Cividale del Friuli, Aquileia, the fortress town of Palmanova (built in 1593), the Dolomites of Friuli, and the prehistoric pile dwellings of Palù di Livenza.

Typical dishes in the Carnia area include frico (crisp fried cheese), polenta, brovada (a stew made of turnip and pork), and wild game. Typical sweets include gubana, from the Natisone valleys, made of sweet pastry stuffed with nuts, sultanas, pine nuts, and grappa in a snail-shell shape. Slivoviz is a distilled spirit produced from plums.

Friuli-Venezia Giulia is closely tied to the **Alpine Corps** of the Italian Army, which shares many behavioural traits with the locals, and contributed greatly to the work of reconstruction after the devastating 1976 earthquake. When the Giro d'Italia visits the region, the "Black Feathers", both those in active service and veterans, bring their expertise to the voluntary groups coordinated by Enzo Cainero who, for years, has harnessed sport to promote the region in concert with the appropriate institutions. His niece Chiara Cainero is an Italian sport shooter who won a gold medal in skeet at the 2008 Beijing Summer Olympics.

The region has long produced excellent sportsmen and women, including footballers Ferruccio Valcareggi, Nereo Rocco, Enzo Bearzot, Cesare Maldini and Dino Zoff, to name the very cream. It has produced many top basketball players as well. The world heavyweight champion Primo Carnera (1906–1967) was from the tiny village of Seqals. Nino Benvenuti, Welterweight world champion and 1960 Olympic champion, was from Trieste. The Di Centa siblings Manuela, 1994 Olympic champion at Lillehammer, and Giorgio, twice-Olympic champion at Torino in 2006, are from Friuli. Twice Italian cyclo-cross champion Daniele Pontoni is from Udine.



15

# GRADO - GORIZIA

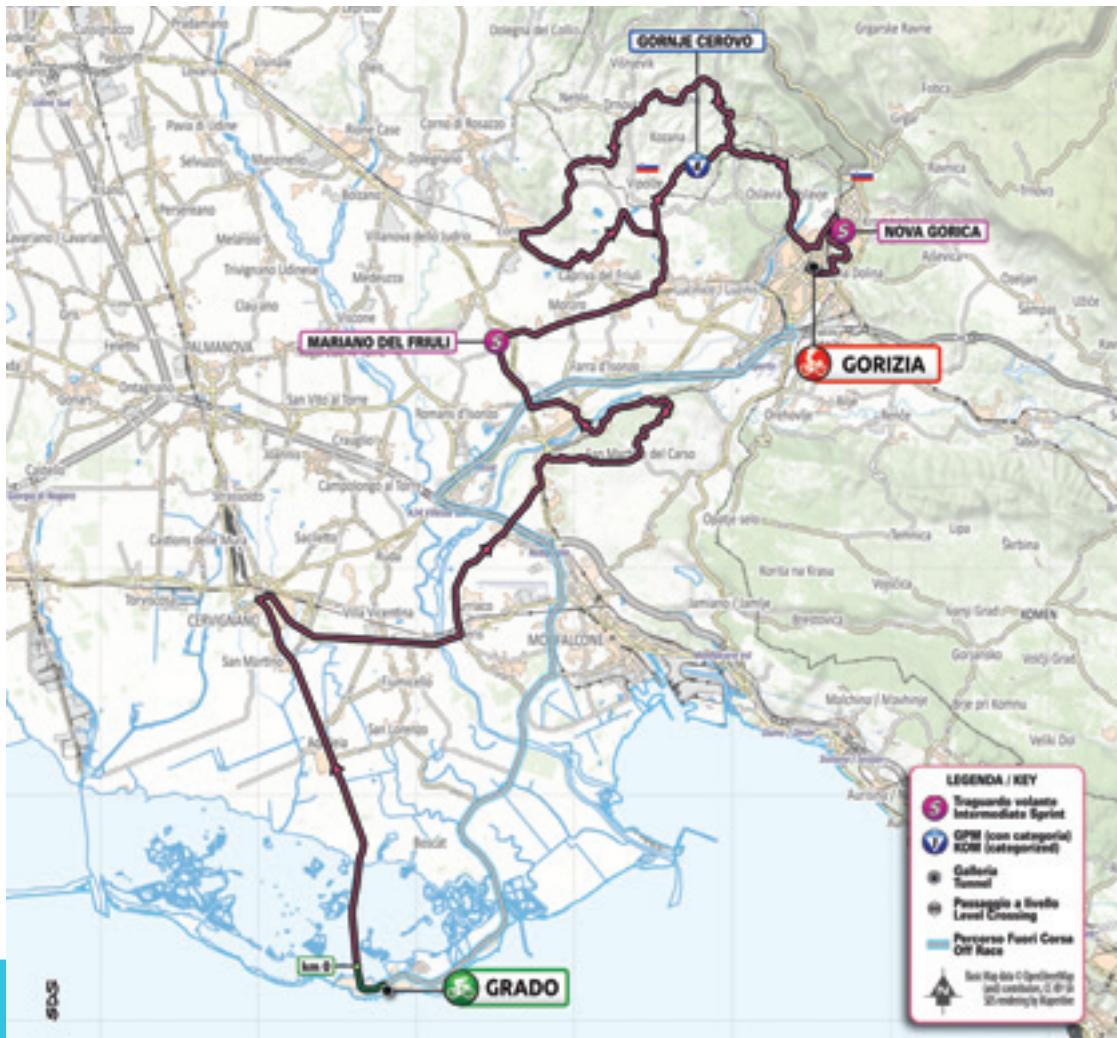
KM 147



23.05.2021  
**SUNDAY**



## GRADO - GORIZIA



Although it is scheduled on Sunday, this stage, all in the Friuli-Venezia Giulia region with very brief sections in the neighbouring Republic of Slovenia, does not present the undulating profiles that typically characterize the weekend stages so as to enhance the entertainment (and the tv ratings). The 15th stage, from Grado to Gorizia, nevertheless is interesting for many reasons. It is the first time that the province of Gorizia hosts both the start and the finish of a stage at the Corsa Rosa.



## START



### GRADO ➤ GORIZIA ➤ FRIULI-VENEZIA GIULIA

**Grado**, in the province of Gorizia, is an important tourist and spa town, also known as the 'Island of the Sun'. It has 8,000 inhabitants and lies between the mouth of the Isonzo river and the Isonzo lagoon.

It has a long history, reflected in its major landmarks, such as the 5th-century **Basilica di Sant'Eufemia** and the nearby baptistery, the **Basilica di Santa Maria delle Grazie** with its stone and brick façade, and the ancient **Sanctuary of the Madonna di Barbana**, on the island of the same name. Grado features large sandy beaches sloping gently into the sea, especially sought after for their beneficial "sand bathing".

The lagoon still has the characteristic 'casoni', thatched dwellings used by fishermen. The local cuisine, based mainly on fish, is highly appreciated.

The poet and writer Biagio Marin (1891-1985), who used the Grado dialect in many of his works, is one of the native celebrities of Grado.



Grado hosted a stage finish in 1954, victory going to Adolfo Grosso; in 2009 the third stage departed from here and finished in Valdobbiadene.



*The Basilica of Sant'Eufemia in Grado.*



*The Sanctuary of the Madonna di Barbana, in Grado Lagoon.*

## KM 10



## AQUILEIA &gt; UDINE &gt; FRIULI-VENEZIA GIULIA

As soon as the flag is dropped, the peloton enters the province of Udine, and passes through the historic **Aquileia** of Roman origin. Main sights include the **Basilica Patriarcale**, that has been listed in the UNESCO Heritage since 1998. It has maintained its original 11th-century appearance.

The route continues on to **Terzo d'Aquileia**, a wine-growing area, and reaches **Cervignano del Friuli**, the main town of the eastern Friulian lowlands, with its cathedral, the church of San Michele Arcangelo and several patrician villas. It is the birthplace of the philosopher and university researcher Paolo Flores d'Arcais (1944).



*The Basilica Patriarcale in Aquileia.*

## KM 25



## PIERIS &gt; GORIZIA &gt; FRIULI-VENEZIA GIULIA

The route returns to the province of Gorizia, the extensive municipal territory of San Canzian d'Isonzo, with its town hall in **Pieris**, in the middle of the 'Bisiacaria', that is, an area in the southern part of the province where the Bisiaco dialect is spoken (or was spoken), a particular dialect strongly affected by Venetian.

Pieris is associated with the history of the Giro d'Italia because of the events that occurred on 30 June 1946, when the Corsa Rosa resumed following the Second World War. That year, in the 12th stage (Rovigo-Trieste), demonstrators in favour of annexing Trieste to Yugoslavia blocked the road and threw stones and nails at the riders and the whole race convoy. The race was suspended, and a small group of 17 athletes was allowed to reach the finish line at the Montebello Hippodrome in Trieste. The symbolic sprint was won by Giordano Cottur from Trieste.

Fabio Capello was born here on 18 June 1946, just a few days before the above-mentioned events, and he is a well-known all-round figure of Italian and international football.

KM 30

## FOGLIANO REDIPUGLIA ➤ GORIZIA ➤ FRIULI-VENEZIA GIULIA

The route runs still on flat land and passes **San Pier d'Isonzo**, then **Fogliano**, the seat of the town council of Fogliano Redipuglia, on the edge of the foothills of the Karst plateau. Redipuglia is the site of a great military shrine inaugurated in 1938, which contains the remains of over 100,000 Italian soldiers who fell in the First World War. The shrine stands at Monte Sei Busi, a place that was fiercely fought for in the twelve bloody battles by the river Isonzo.

The route then runs to **Sagrado**, with a very short ascent up **Monte San Michele** (261m), a strategic place where fierce battles in the First World War took place. The poet-combatant Giuseppe Ungaretti recalled them in several poems.

The route then descends to **Peteano**, another hamlet of Sagrado, a place sadly known for the homonymous 1972 terrorist attack with extreme right-wing political roots, when three carabinieri died as a car bomb blew up.



Redipuglia military shrine, inaugurated in 1938.



Commemorative stone, Monte San Michele.

KM 55

## MARIANO DEL FRIULI ➤ GORIZIA ➤ FRIULI-VENEZIA GIULIA

The route rolls by Poggio Terza Armata and reaches **Mariano del Friuli**. It is the first intermediate sprint, set in this town lying on the right bank of the river Isonzo. Dino Zoff, a great goalkeeper and football coach, was born here in 1942.

Then, there is **San Lorenzo Isontino**, very close to the foothills of the Collio, an area of fine wines, and the birthplace of Ivano Blason (1923-Gorizia 2002), a powerful line-backer who was considered the first who played as a 'libero' in Italy. Two other players with good careers, Bruno Orzan (1927-Gorizia 2008) and goalkeeper Riccardo Toros (1930), were also born here.

KM 60



## MOSSA ➤ GORIZIA ➤ FRIULI-VENEZIA GIULIA



The route then passes **Mossa**, a territory with interesting natural areas and a pretty town, and rolls among vineyards and cherry trees by **San Floriano del Collio**, before entering the Republic of Slovenia.

*View of the vineyards by the Collio.*

KM 70



## GORNJE CEROVO ➤ SLOVENIA

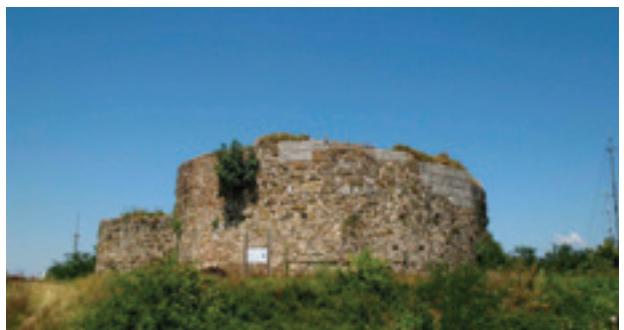
Here the peloton enters a circuit, which includes some short yet steep climbs, and covers it twice. Then the route, after its last section in Slovenia, past Nova Gorica, comes back to Italy with another short climb with 3km remaining to the finish. The 4th category climb leading to **Gornje Cerovo** (239m) – in the area of Brda (the name of the Slovenian Collio) that includes the hamlets of **Hum**, **Gonjace**, and **Medana** – will be raced three times.

KM 85



## CORMÒNS ➤ GORIZIA ➤ FRIULI-VENEZIA GIULIA

The route is back in Italy and touches **Cormòns**, an important town in the area. Main sights include the **Duomo of Sant'Alberto**, the **church of San Leopoldo** and the ancient **Castello di monte Quarin**. The popular TV journalist Bruno Pizzul is proudly from Cormòns and has always been a cyclist as he has never never – deliberately – got a driving licence.



*The Castle of monte Quarin, by Cormòns.*

KM 90 and 120



## CASTELLO DI SPESSA ➤ GORIZIA ➤ FRIULI-VENEZIA GIULIA

The route passes through **Castello di Spessa**, an excellent wine-growing area where Giacomo Casanova also spent some time. After a further passage through San Floriano del Collio, another lap of the circuit already covered begins and, after the third passage at the Gornij Cerovo KOM summit, the route heads for San Floriano del Collio to cross **Oslavia**, a district of Gorizia, with its imposing shrine from 1938 in which lie the remains of 57,741 soldiers who died in the battles of Gorizia in the First World War



*Oslavia military shrine, inaugurated in 1938.*



KM 145



## NOVA GORICA ➤ SLOVENIA

The route passes through Gorizia a first time, then heads again for Slovenia, **Nova Gorica**, (population approx. 13,000), the Slovenian equivalent of Gorizia, with the second intermediate sprint. The two cities will both be the 2025 European Capitals of Culture, together with Germany's Chemnitz. Nova Gorica is the main centre of the Goriska region, at the mouth of the Soča Valley, and was the north-eastern sector of Gorizia, from which it was separated in 1947 with the setting of the new border between Italy and Yugoslavia. It is the birthplace of Matej Mugerli (1981), a Pro rider with a long career and a precursor of the recent strong development in Slovenian cycling.

Past the village of **Saver**, the route returns, for good, to Italy via the Casa Rossa pass, less than 1.5 kilometres to the finish.



*View of Nova Gorica.*

## FINISH



## GORIZIA &gt; GORIZIA &gt; FRIULI-VENEZIA GIULIA

**Gorizia** is the capital of the province of the same name and has approx. 38,000 inhabitants. It is a city with a predominantly 19th-century urban structure, with the town spread out at the foot of an isolated hill on which stands a medieval castle. The border with Slovenia, officially established in 1975 with the Treaty of Osimo, passes through here. In 2004, when Slovenia joined the European Union, all the constraints and limits that had divided Gorizia from Nova Gorica for more than 50 years were canceled.

Major landmarks include the **Duomo** dating back to 1884, rebuilt in 1927 after it was severely damaged during the Great War, the grand **church of Sant'Ignazio**, the **Civic Library**, the **Palazzo Coronini Cronberg**, home to several works by great painters.

Carlo Rubbia (1934), physicist and academic, Nobel Prize winner for physics in 1984 and honorary senator, was born here, as were various sports stars, such as Gianmarco Pozzecco and Tonino Zorzi (basketball), Giorgio Puia and Edy Reja (football). In cycling, Giorgio Ursi (1942-1982), a pursuit specialist and silver medallist at the 1964 Tokyo Olympics, and the road race rider Enrico Degano (1976), who was a Pro for about ten years, are both natives of Gorizia.

Gorizia was stage finish in 1939 – victory going to Giovanni Valetti. The list of stage winners here include Vendramino “Mino” Bariviera (1963), Moreno Argentin (1983), the Spaniard Pablo Lastras (2001). Gorizia hosted several stage starts and a few Giro del Friuli finishes (mass start stages).



The castle in Gorizia, dating back to the 11<sup>th</sup> century



The façade of the church of Sant'Ignazio in Gorizia.

**FRIULI VENEZIA GIULIA**

[www.turismofvg.it](http://www.turismofvg.it)



ph. N.Brolio

*Friuli Venezia Giulia,  
a braccia aperte!*



COMINCIA IL TUO VIAGGIO QUI:  
[WWW.TURISMOFVG.IT](http://WWW.TURISMOFVG.IT)



#FVGlive



# NOTE

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



16

# SACILE – CORTINA D'AMPEZZO

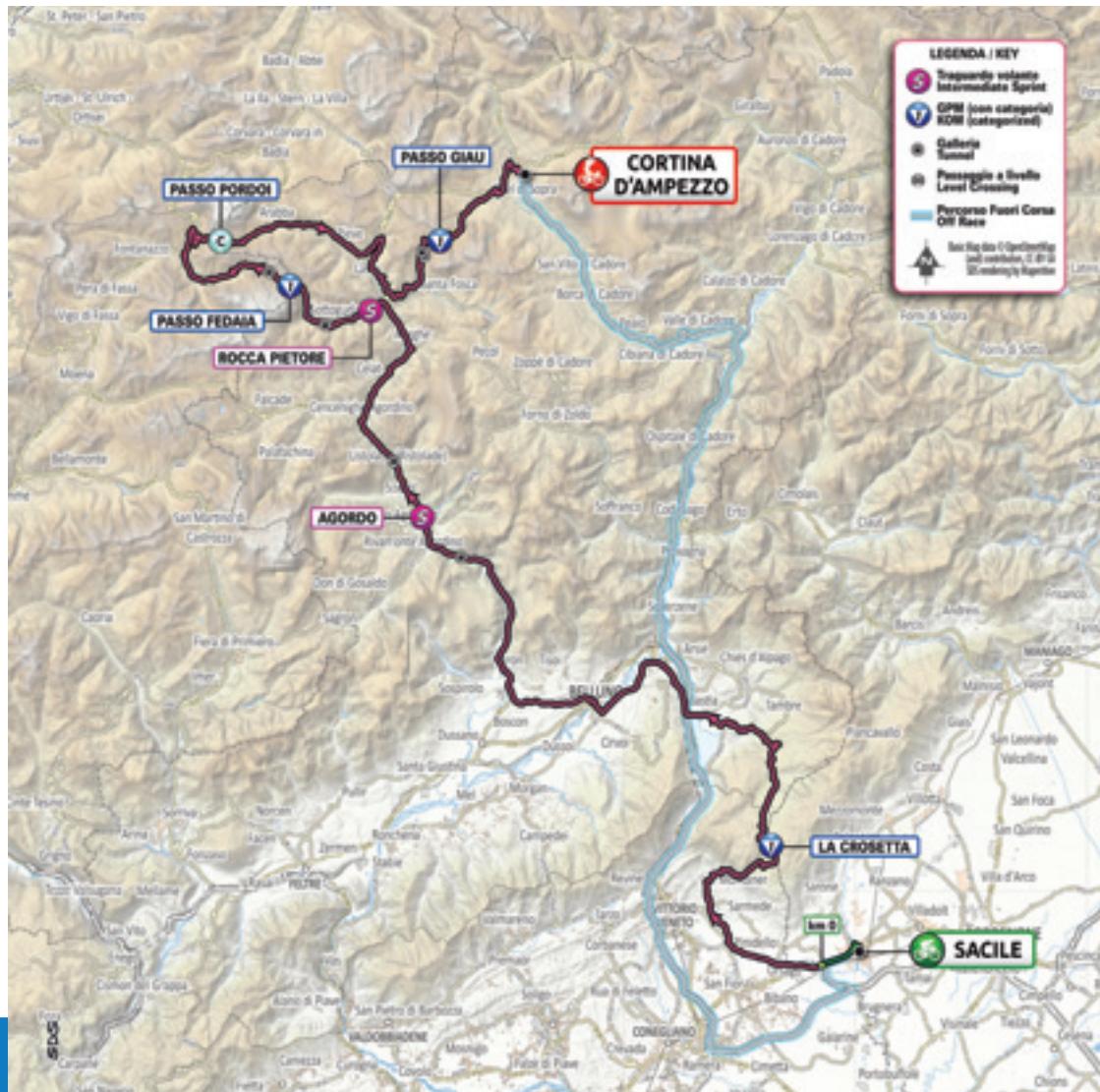
**KM 212**



24.05.2021  
**MONDAY**



# SACILE - CORTINA D'AMPEZZO



And, as the saying goes, "the going gets tough" in this stage, the "queen stage in the Dolomites" with an extremely undulating 212km course from Sacile to Cortina d'Ampezzo.



## START

 SACILE ➤ PORDENONE ➤ FRIULI-VENEZIA GIULIA

**Sacile**, a town with around 20,000 inhabitants, lying on two islands of the Livenza river, hosts the stage start. It is called "the small Venice", aka "the Garden of the Serenissima" or "Second Padua".

**Piazza del Popolo**, the heart of the town, features the 14th-century **Loggia comunale** (the town hall), the **Baptistery**, the 15th-century **Duomo**, which houses valuable works by well-known artists, and the remains of the ancient **castle**.

Sacile was the birthplace of Giovanni Micheletto (1889-1958), an excellent road Pro cyclist of heroic times, of noble origins, nicknamed "Conte di Sacile" (Count of Sacile), with a brilliant record of achievements interrupted by the First World War; Enrico Gasparotto (1982), a recent ex-Pro after a fifteen-year career, Italian road champion and winner of two Amstel Gold Races; and the late Denis Zanette (1970-Pordenone 2003), winner of two stages at the Giro d'Italia, who died at a very young age due to heart and lung disease and is commemorated every year by the Denis Zanette Memorial.

As soon as the flag is dropped, the peloton enters the province of Treviso, Veneto, heading for **Ponte della Muda** and **Santo Stefano**, both hamlets of Cordignano. The route passes **Cappella Maggiore** and then **Fregona**.



View of the Livenza river, Sacile.



The Loggia comunale (town hall) in Sacile.

## KM 25

 LA CROSETTA ➤ TREVISO ➤ VENETO

The route clears the 1st-category climb up **La Crosetta** (1118m), in the heart of the green Cansiglio plateau. It is a strong 'starter' in line with the 'menu' of today's stage, which also marks the entrance to the province of Belluno.



KM 30



## PIAN DEL CONSIGLIO ➤ BELLUNO ➤ VENETO

The route rolls across **Pian del Cansiglio**, in the municipal territories of Alpago and Tambre, and then runs down through **Spert** and **Farra**, before reaching the large municipal territory of Ponte nelle Alpi and touching the hamlets of **La Secca**, **Vich**, and **Santa Caterina**.

KM 60



## BELLUNO ➤ BELLUNO ➤ VENETO

The route then enters **Belluno**, the regional capital (population 35,000) lying on the right bank of the Piave river; it has been listed in the UNESCO Heritage since 2009. In the old town the architecture shows some Venetian influence, especially the **Duomo**, the **Palazzo dei Rettori** with the Clock Tower and other main sights, such as **Via Mezzaterra**. Belluno is close to the Nevegal plateau, popular for summer and winter tourism. It is the birthplace of Dino Buzzati (1906–Milan 1972), a journalist and writer with eclectic interests, including the Giro d'Italia, as well as Giovanni Knapp (1943–2021), a Pro rider who won a stage at the Giro.



*The Palazzo dei Rettori in Belluno, with the Clock Tower.*

The list of stage winners in Belluno include the Irish Seamus Elliot in 1938, Guido Carlesi in 1962, Arnaldo Pambianco in 1963, Felice Gimondi in 1966 and, finally, Alberto Contador in the Belluno-Nevegal ITT in 2011.

KM 70



## MAS ➤ BELLUNO ➤ VENETO

The route rolls on to **Mas**, a hamlet of Sedico, and then **La Stanga**.

KM 90

## AGORDO ➤ BELLUNO ➤ VENETO

The route then runs on the flatlands crossed by the Cordevole river and clears the Intermediate Sprint in **Agordo**. In the early 1960s, Luxottica, a major global eyewear company, was founded here.

In 2007, a stage kicked off here and finished in Lienz, Austria.

KM 110

## ALLEGHE ➤ BELLUNO ➤ VENETO

The route begins to climb heading for **Taibon Agordino**, reaches **Cencenighe Agordino** and then **Alleghe**, with the lake of the same name that was formed by a landslide in 1771, overlooked by the imposing silhouette of Mount Civetta (3220m) and with an extraordinary view of the vertical "wall of walls". It is a popular tourist area in the Dolomiti Superski district all year around.



Mount Civetta, a backdrop for the village of Alleghe.

In 1975, Alleghe hosted the finish of the second-last stage (victory went to the Belgian Roger De Vlaeminck), and the start of the famous Alleghe-Stelvio Pass stage, with a breath-taking duel – a tight race – between the maglia rosa holder Fausto Bertoglio (who came from Brescia) and the Spanish Francisco Galdos who was 1'41" down on the overall leader. The latter won the stage but failed to snatch the pink jersey on the winding route on the Bolzano side of the "king Stelvio".

KM 115

## ROCCA PIETORE ➤ BELLUNO ➤ VENETO

The route then passes **Caprile**, then clears the intermediate sprint in **Rocca Pietore**, where it takes in the climb up **Malga Ciapela**. This is where the eclectic Michele Dancelli claimed the stage victory at the 1970 Giro.



KM 125

**FEDAIA PASS ➤ BELLUNO ➤ VENETO**

The route takes in the dreaded 3km “straight” 1st-category climb with a gradient of 12%: a constant slope that never flattens out up **Fedaia Pass** (2057m).

KM 140

**CANAZEI ➤ TRENTO ➤ TRENTO-ALTO ADIGE**

Once the route clears the summit, it enters the province of Trento with a fast-running descent heading for **Rifugio Castiglioni**, **Penia** and **Canazei**, in the Val di Fassa. Canazei, nestled in the Dolomite massifs of Sassolungo, Marmolada and Sella, is a popular summer and winter sports resort and is part of the Sella Ronda ski circuit. The pretty old town features characteristic buildings immersed in the cultural and natural environments.

Gianbattista Baronchelli claimed the stage victory here in the 1978 Giro. In 1987, victory went to the Dutch Johan van der Velde and, finally, in 2017 to the Frenchman Pierre Rolland.

KM 155

**PORDOI PASS ➤ TRENTO ➤ VENETO**

The route immediately takes in the 1st-category climb up the **Pordoi Pass** (2239m), aka “Cima Coppi” this year, as it is the highest one of the entire Giro. A monument commemorates the “campionissimo” and the related Trofeo Torriani, in memory of Vincenzo Torriani, the Giro’s patron. This is a “historical pass” that the Corsa Rosa included in fourty editions after having introduced it in 1940.

The Pordoi Pass hosted a stage finish four times, victory going to the Frenchman Charly Mottet (1990), Franco Chioccioli (1991), Enrico Zaina (1996) and the Mexican Julio Perez Cuapio (2001).



*The monument commemorating Fausto Coppi on the Pordoi Pass*

The route comes back to the province of Belluno, descends onto **Arabba**, a hamlet of Livinallongo del Col di Lana, a renowned tourist resort.

Two Giro d'Italia stages finished here and featured the same route (start in Selva di Val Gardena): both times it was on the twentieth stage, the third to last one. In 1983, victory went to Alessandro Paganessi, and in 1984 to the late Frenchman Laurent Fignon.

KM 160

## COLLE SANTA LUCIA ➤ BELLUNO ➤ VENETO



*The church in Colle Santa Lucia, overlooking the village.*

The route flattens out in **Pieve di Livinallongo** – main sights include the town hall and the interesting Museum of history, customs and traditions of the Ladin people –, it then passes **Cernadoi** and reaches **Colle Santa Lucia**, lying in the upper basin of the Cordevole stream, a small town (with its municipal seat in Villlagrande) that reflects Ladin cultural influences, with a Tyrolean-Cadorine variant, in its architecture.



KM 195

## GIAU PASS ➤ BELLUNO ➤ VENETO

The route then takes in the 1st-category climb up **Giau Pass** (2233m), winding among alpine pastures, at the foot of the Nuvolau and Averau mountains, passing by the Rifugio Fedare, with breathtaking views of the surrounding peaks.

The Giau Pass, featuring a winding gravel road, was introduced in 1973. Here the Spaniard José Manuel Fuente showed his skills as a “climber”, as he reached the summit solo. After the road was asphalted, the Giau Pass was included seven other times in the Corsa Rosa course.

What is left is just the final fast-running descent onto **Pocòl**, in the territory of Cortina d'Ampezzo, heading to the finish line in the heart of the “Queen of the Dolomites”.

## FINISH



## CORTINA D'AMPEZZO ➤ BELLUNO ➤ VENETO

**Cortina d'Ampezzo** lies in the verdant Ampezzo basin and is an internationally renowned summer and winter sports resort. It hosted the 1956 Winter Olympics and is getting ready to host the next one in 2026, in conjunction with Milan. Main sights include Corso Italia, the heart of the town life, the **church of Saints Filippo and Giacomo**, the **Casa delle Regole** and the **pinacoteca Mario Rimoldi** (art gallery), where fine works by well-known contemporary artists are on display.

The "Scoiattoli di Cortina", an organization of non-professional climbers who practice mountaineering and mountain rescue, is well known. Cortina's Lino Lacedelli (1925-2009) belonged to the "Scoiattoli". Along with Achille Compagnoni from Valtellina, he was one of the first in the expedition led by Ardito Desio to reach the summit of K2, the second highest peak in the world, on 31 July 1954. Cortina is a land of hockey players and bobbers. We recall Eugenio Monti (1928 Dobbiaco-2003 Belluno), aka the "flying red-haired", a more-than-once Olympic and World Championship winner and the first athlete to receive the Pierre de Coubertin medal for sportsmanship. The bobsleigh track in Cortina is named after him.



*The church of Saints Filippo and Giacomo, in Cortina d'Ampezzo.*



*A splendid view of the Dolomites, Cortina d'Ampezzo.*

The list of stage winners in Cortina includes: Secondo Magni (a Tuscan rider unrelated to Fiorenzo) : in 1939, Fausto Coppi (1948), the Frenchman Luison Bobet (1951), Angelo Conterno (1955), Giuseppe Perletto (1977, finish at Col Druscié) and, finally, the Spaniard Joaquin Rodriguez in 2012 – the popular "Purito" who retained the maglia rosa and won the Giro.



17

# CANAZEI - SEGA DI ALA

KM 193



26.05.2021  
WEDNESDAY



# CANAZEI - SEGA DI ALA



The second rest day was spent surrounded by the splendid Dolomites that will be the backdrop for today's stage, unfolding entirely in the Autonomous Province of Trento. In the first half, the route runs downhill and then takes in two 1st-category climbs. "The poison is in the tail", goes a Latin saying which suits this stage.



## START



## CANAZEI ➤ TRENTO ➤ TRENTINO-ALTO ADIGE

**Canazei**, due to its location in the northern Val di Fassa, often featured in the Corsa Rosa route and hosted some stage finishes, as is the case in the 16th stage of this year's Giro d'Italia.

Alongside 18 municipalities, Canazei is part of the Dolomite Ladin region (Ladin is spoken here). The hamlets of Alba, Penia, and Gries are its natural extension. Once the peloton

rolls in the neutral section across the town and the neighbouring municipal territories of Fassa and Mazzin and reaches the km 0 in the latter, the race kicks off. The route then heads for **Pozza di Fassa**, the seat of the newly founded municipality of San Giovanni di Fassa that results from the merging of Vigo di Fassa and Pozza di Fassa.



*View of Canazei.*

## KM 15



## MOENA ➤ TRENTO ➤ TRENTINO-ALTO ADIGE

The route then passes **Moena**, a popular and fine holiday destination, with its slopes rising in the spectacular Sassolungo and Catinaccio massifs. The parish **church of San Vigilio** is worth a visit. A local specialty is the DOP-labeled Puzzone di Moena cheese.

Moena hosted two stage finishes – and several stage starts – of the Corsa Rosa: in 1963 victory went to Vito Taccone, and in 1966 Gianni Motta, the pink jersey holder, claimed the win on his way to the overall victory.



*The church of San Vigilio, in Moena.*



Moena marks the border between the Val di Fassa and the Val di Fiemme. The route passes **Predazzo** (lying on the banks of the Avisio river and overlooked by the Latemar and Lagorai massifs) with a prestigious Scuola alpina della Guardia di Finanza – the oldest in the world. The organizing committee of the famous Marcialonga granfondo ski race is based in Predazzo.

*Oath of Honour ceremony by the Guardia di Finanza trainees.*



KM 35

## CAVALESE ➤ TRENTO ➤ TRENTO-ALTO ADIGE



The route rolls across the wide valley passing **Ziano di Fiemme** and **Tesero**, before reaching **Cavalese**, historically the chief town of the area where the valley's cultural traditions have been preserved in the Magnifica Comunità di Fiemme, an eminent secular institution.

*The Palazzo della Magnifica Comunità di Fiemme, in Cavalese.*

In 1969 a stage finished here, with victory going to Trentine Claudio Michelotto. Another rider from Trentino, Francesco Moser, won the ITT in 1978. In 1997, the ITT victory went to the Ukraine's Sergej Gonchar.

The road descends to **Molina di Fiemme**, in the Val Cadino, then **Casatta**, a hamlet of Valfloriane hosting the town council. The route then runs through the neighbouring Val di Cembra, heading for **Sover**.

KM 55



## SVESERI ➤ TRENTO ➤ TRENTO-ALTO ADIGE

The route clears the 3rd-category climb leading to **Sveseri** (1096m), then passes **Brusaggo**, a hamlet of Bedollo and enters the Altopiano di Piné (a plateau).

KM 70



## BASELGA DI PINÉ ➤ TRENTO ➤ TRENTO-ALTO ADIGE

The route travels down to **Baselga di Piné**, the chief town in the valley, not far from Lake Serraia and Lake Piazze. Here one of the best ice-skating stadium and speed rink hosts world-class events. Ice-skating is also practiced on the frozen Lake Serraia. The town is overlooked by the **Sanctuary of the Comparsa**.



Lake Serraia, in Baselga di Piné.



Baselga di Piné hosted a stage finish in 1975 (with victory going to De Vlaeminck) and in 1990 (with victory going to the Frenchman Eric Boyer). In 1997, the ITT stage started here and finished in Cavalese.

The route continues downhill to **Valle**, a hamlet of Fornace, then through **Civezzano**, with the majestic Castel Telvana, the fine parish church of the Assunta and the Argentario Ecomuseum where the social and mining history of Mount Calisio is on display.



KM 90



## TRENTO ➤ TRENTO ➤ TRENTO-ALTO ADIGE

As the route reaches **Trento**, with the first intermediate sprint, it enters the Adige valley. For several years now, the city has been ranked highly in terms of quality of life and environment. Here the Ecumenical Council of Trent was held. It lasted 18 years, from 1545 to 1563, with the aim to reconcile Catholics and Protestants, and resulted in a Counter-Reformation that affirmed the validity of Catholic doctrine over the Protestant Reformation.





The **Piazza del Duomo**, with the **Cathedral of San Vigilio**, is bordered by noble buildings with the 18th-century **fontana del Nettuno**. Other major landmarks include the **Palazzo delle Alberes**, a mid-16th-century villa-fortress, the **Palazzo Thun**, the seat of the town hall, and the **Castello del Buonconsiglio**, the ancient residence of the bishop-princes, consisting of several bodies including the crenellated **Castelvecchio** and the **Augustus Tower**, in Gothic-Venetian style. The trial of the irredentist patriots Cesare Battisti, Damiano Chiesa, and Fabio Filzi, who were later executed, took place here. The MUSE, i.e., the Science Museum, and the Galleria Civica (included in the Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art of Trento and Rovereto since 2013) are both worth a visit.



Over the history of the Giro d'Italia, Trento and its mountain, the Bondone, hosted 17 stage finishes and several stage starts. A legendary one is the stage that finished on the Bondone in 1956, when Luxembourg's Charly Gaul claimed the victory fighting in the sleet and the snow. A "granfondo" is named after him. Since 1927 the Giro della Bolghera – a traditional amateur bike race in a circuit – is held in the homonymous city district.



*The Castello del Buonconsiglio, Trento.*



*The Cathedral of San Vigilio, Trento.*

KM 95



RAVINA ➤ TRENTO ➤ TRENTINO-ALTO ADIGE

Past **Ravina** and **Romagnano**, the route runs across **Aldeno**, a village in the Vallagarina, rich in vineyards and orchards, and hometown of Remo Mosna, a renowned cycling photographer. The route continues through **Nomi**, **Villa Lagarina**, on the right bank of the Adige river, and **Isera**, well-known for Marzemino.

KM 120



## MORI ➤ TRENTO ➤ TRENTO-ALTO ADIGE

The route then reaches **Mori** (second intermediate sprint), with the **church of San Rocco**, the **Sanctuary of Montalbano**, and the archeological finds from the area of Lake Loppio. Since 1902 the Società Ciclistica Mori (cycling club), based here, has been promoting youth cycling in particular. Here, the velodrome, renovated in 2010, hosts several events. Mori was the birthplace of Vasco Modena (1929-Trento 2016), who won the Coppa Bernocchi in a time trial ahead of Fausto Coppi. Alessandro Bertolini (Rovereto 1971), a Pro rider from 1993 to 2012 lives in Mori.



*The Sanctuary of Montalbano, Mori.*

KM 140



## AVIO ➤ TRENTO ➤ TRENTO-ALTO ADIGE



Past **Chizzola** and **Pilcante**, both hamlets of Ala, the route reaches **Avio**, the southernmost municipality in the province and the region, on the border with Veneto, with the Monte Baldo chain separating it from Lake Garda to the west. On a high rocky spur stands the **Castello dei Castelbarco**, a military castle and, at the same time, a stately mansion with exquisite frescoes.

*The Castello di Avio.*



KM 155



## SAN VALENTINO PASS ➤ TRENTO ➤ TRENTO-ALTO ADIGE

The route then clears the 1st-category climb up **San Valentino Pass** (1315m). The ascent begins in Avio, at 140 metres, and after roughly 16 kilometres reaches the summit featuring a constant gradient (average 7,2%). The route then takes in a fast-running descent through the municipal territory of **Brentonico**, with a view of the wide plateau of the same name, and past San Giacomo reaches the regional capital and its numerous hamlets.

Polsa, one of Trento's hamlets, is well-known in the cycling world. It developed as a tourist destination in the 1960s and 1970s and was in fact "launched" by the 1970 Giro d'Italia, when victory went to Eddy Merckx ahead of his countryman Vandenbossche at 12" and Zilioli at 44". Merckx wore the pink jersey – it was the 7th stage – and retained it until the last stage in Bolzano. In the 2013 Mori-Polsa time trial stage Vincenzo Nibali, already holding the pink jersey, claimed the win. He too would retain the maglia rosa until the grand finish stage in Brescia.

## FINISH



### SEGA DI ALA ➤ TRENTO ➤ TRENTO-ALTO ADIGE

The peloton rolls again through **Chizzola** and **Pilcante** and enters the municipal territory of **Ala** to reach the finish line in **Sega di Ala** at 1246 metres.

The municipality, with around 9,000 inhabitants, is surrounded by massifs and several plateaus. The **parish church of Santa Maria Assunta**, higher up, and the **church of Saints Giovanni Battista and Evangelista**, in the main square, are the major religious buildings. The area, dotted with vineyards and a few factories, is also the starting place of many hikes in the nearby Mounts Lessini.

**Sdruzzinà** is at the bottom of the tough 1st-category climb leading to the uphill finish in Segà di Ala.

The same climb feautered in the 2013 Giro del Trentino's last stage, starting from Arco, with victory going to Vincenzo Nibali, who soloed across the finish line and moved up the GC on his way to the overall victory.



The winding road goes up the steep slope in Val Lagarina climbing steadily over 9% for roughly 7 kilometres. After a 700m respite, the route ascends again for approx. 2 kilometres reaching 15% gradient at points, but then the home stretch is slightly uphill.

*Mountain biking trail  
at Segà di Ala.*

# AUTONOMOUS PROVINCE OF TRENTO

The **Autonomous Province of Trento** covers the southern part of the Alps. It is mountainous in its entirety, and formed by Alpine valleys like the **Val di Sole**, the **Val di Fiemme** and the **Valle di Primiero**, which lie at the foot of high massifs with glaciers and abundant water, and by sub-Alpine valleys, plateaus and small plains with a sub-Mediterranean climate that allows olive tree cultivation (for example, the north side of Lake Garda). In geological terms, it includes mountain massifs with a variety of origins. To the west, the landscape is dominated by the massifs of Mount **Adamello**, the **Presanella** and the **Ortles-Cevedale** (Eng. Ortler Alps), whose permanent snow cap is among the most extensive in Italy. In addition, the Autonomous Province of Trento can boast many Dolomite massifs: the Brenta Group or **Brenta Dolomites** (the only Dolomite massif to the west of the Adige River), the **Marmolada**, known as the Queen of the Dolomites, the Pala group (in Italian, the **Pale di San Martino**), which it shares with the province of Belluno), the **Sella Group** (shared with the provinces of Belluno and Bolzano), the **Latemàr**, the **Sassolungo** and the **Catinaccio** (at the border with South Tyrol). In the eastern part stand the Lagorai Mountains and the granite massif of the Cima d'Asta. These are the wildest, most unpolluted part of the province. Not so high but no less imposing are the **Paganella** and Mount **Bondone**, not far from the regional capital, not to mention the section of the Venetian Pre-Alps or Alpine foothills in the Province, which include Mount Baldo, Mounts Lessini, Piccole Dolomiti (Eng. Little Dolomites) and the Pasubio.

The mountains and valleys of the Autonomous Province of Trento offer many natural monuments, like the **pyramids** at **Segonzano**, created by erosion. The territory contains the Stelvio National Park, the **Adamello-Brenta National Park** and the **Paneveggio-Pale Group National Park**.

The most commonly spoken language is Italian, although Trentino dialect is also common. There is a German-speaking minority, with three lesser known languages officially recognised: Mòcheno, spoken in the Mocheni Valley; Cimbrian, spoken in Luserna in the Cimbrian highlands; and Ladino, spoken in Val di Fassa. The 2011 language census estimated that around 7000 inhabitants of the Val di Non and the Val di Sole also speak Ladino, although without official recognition.

Local economy centres on agriculture and livestock, industry (textiles, construction, mechanics, timber and paper), food with many wine producers and traditional distilleries, and fruit, especially apples. The abundance of mountains and water has led to the construction of hydroelectric plants.

One of the region's most important economic sectors is **tourism**, summer and, especially, winter. The jet set goes to **Madonna di Campiglio**, for the **3-Tre** ski slope, a frequent venue of **World Cup slalom** events. In the eastern part of the Province lies the winter resort of **San Martino di Castrozza**, surrounded by meadowland once tended by the old **monastery of San Martino e Giuliano**, and by the peaks of the Pala group. San Martino, in the Primiero Valley, is considered by many to be the most beautiful part of the Dolomites. The Primiero Valley is the setting for another beautiful and historical village, **Fiera**

**di Primiero**, right at the foot of the Pala massif. Across the **Passo Rolle** from San Martino lies the **Val di Fiemme**, with the towns of **Cavalese**, **Predazzo** and **Tesero**. This richly forested valley is known as a major winter sports centre, especially for cross-country skiing: two cross-country skiing World Championships have been held here (1991 and 2003). To the north of the Val di Fiemme lies the land of the Ladino people, the **Val di Fassa**, with many small towns and villages, the largest and best known of them probably **Moena** and **Canazei**, overlooked by some of the most impressive massifs in the Dolomites: Marmolada, Sella, and Catinaccio.

The Autonomous Province of Trento boasts many museums, including the following: the Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art of Trento e Rovereto (MART), The Civic Museum of Rovereto, The Buonconsiglio Museum in the castle of the same name, The Tridentine Museum of Natural Science at Trento, The Museum of the Customs and Traditions of the People of the Trentino in San Michele all'Adige, the Italian War Museum at Rovereto and the Geological Museum of the Dolomites at Predazzo.



# DIVENTA ANCHE TU REPORTER PER UN GIORNO

## SEI APPASSIONATO DI FOTOGRAFIA?

Fotografa la tua città mentre si prepara ad accogliere una tappa del Giro d'Italia.

## HAI SEMPRE SOGNATO DI SCRIVERE UN ARTICOLO COME UN VERO PROFESSIONISTA?

Scriivi un articolo su una delle Grandi Classiche del ciclismo.

POTRAI VEDERE LA TUA FOTO O IL TUO ARTICOLO PUBBLICATO SUI SOCIAL O SUL SITO UFFICIALE DEL GIRO D'ITALIA.

Progetto dedicato alle scuole secondarie sui territori attraversati dal Giro d'Italia e dalle Grandi Classiche del ciclismo targato RCS.

ISCRIVITI SUBITO SU  
[www.giroditalia.it/reporter](http://www.giroditalia.it/reporter)



# RISVEGLIO

QUI LA PRIMAVERA È PUREZZA



18

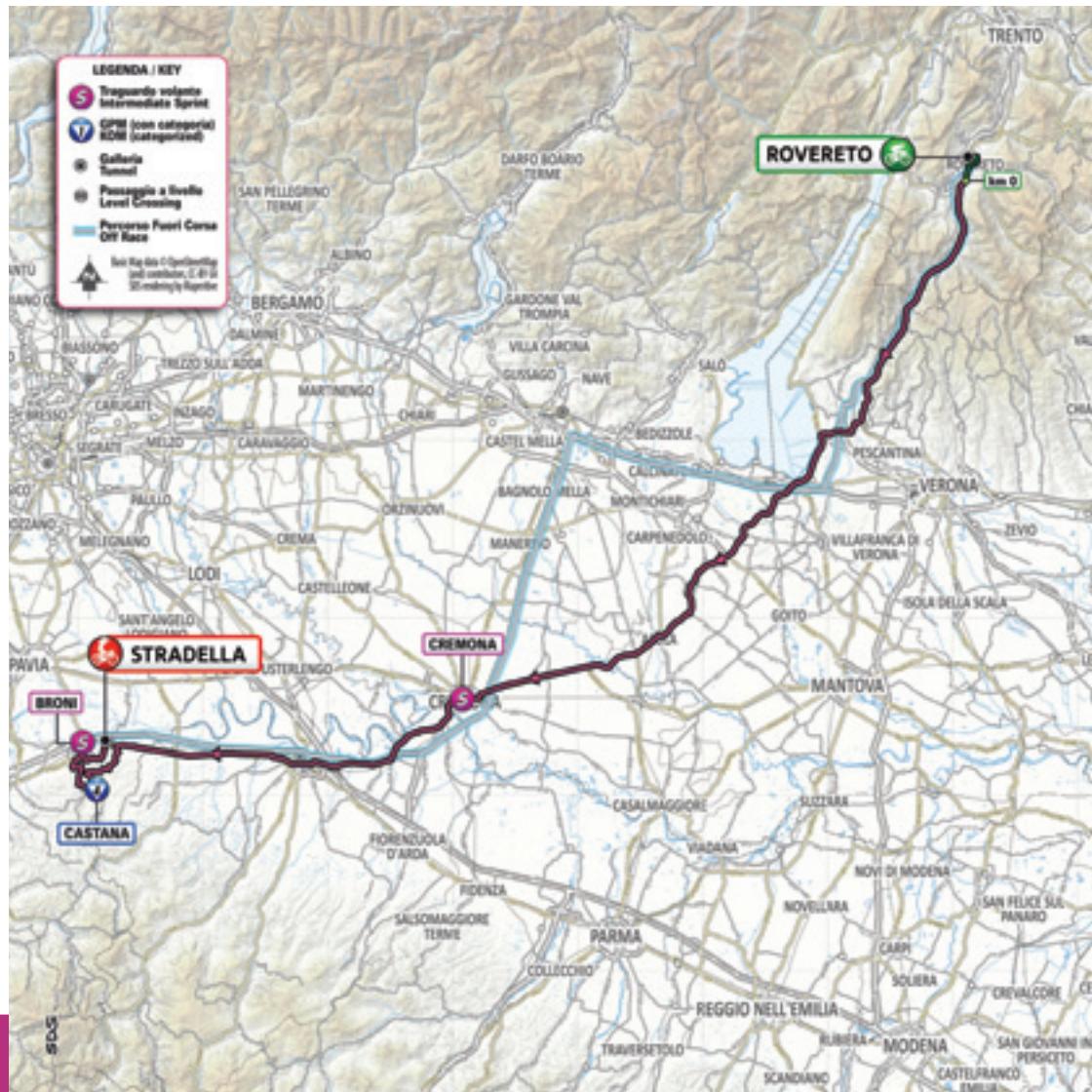
# ROVERETO – STRADELLA

**KM 231**



27.05.2021  
**THURSDAY**

# ROVERETO – STRADELLA



This will be a long stage with no topographical impediments, except for a few minor climbs in the closing part. The route runs from Trentino-Alto Adige/Südtirol to Lombardy, from Rovereto to Stradella, two major winemaking centres.

## START



## ROVERETO &gt; TRENTO &gt; TRENTO-ALTO ADIGE/SÜDTIROL

**Rovereto** (population: 35,000) is the main town of the Lagarina Valley. It has a rich monumental heritage that speaks to its long history. The **Castello** is now a war museum (Museo storico italiano della guerra); there is a monument near the **Town Hall** and a mammoth bell (**Campana dei Caduti**) on the Miravalle hill commemorating the fallen soldiers of the Legione Trentina, made using the bronze cannons donated by the once-belligerent countries in 1924. The nearby **Sacario di Castel Dante** (war memorial) contains the remains of 12,000 fallen soldiers from different countries.

Inaugurated in 2002, the MART – Museo di Arte moderna e contemporanea di Trento e Rovereto (Museum of modern and contemporary art) deserves a special mention. Major architectural landmarks include the Baroque **church of San Marco**, with neoclassical features.

Notable natives include the founder of the Rosminians, Antonio Rosmini (1797–1855, priest, philosopher and theologian). The inventive artist Fortunato Depero (Fondo 1892–Rovereto 1960) spent his life here. He created a museum of futurism, the Casa d'Arte Futurista Depero, which is now an integral part of the MART. Rovereto was the birthplace of the racing rider Cesare Benedetti (1987, who turned professional in 2010) and of the young Mattia Bais (1996).



The Castle of Rovereto, one of the best examples of late mediaeval Alpine fortification.



The Italian Historic War Museum, Rovereto.

Rovereto hosted four Giro d'Italia stage finishes: in 1959, victory went to the Belgian Rik Van Looy, in 1995 to the Swiss Pascal Richard, in 2005 to Alessandro Petacchi, and in 2018 to the Australian Rohan Dennis (Trento–Rovereto, ITT). The town also hosted several stage starts.



KM 20

## BORGHETTO ALL'ADIGE ➤ TRENTO ➤ TRENTO-ALTO ADIGE/SÜDTIROL

The route merges onto the s.s. 12 del Brennero, southbound, passes through Serravalle all'Adige, Ala and **Borghetto all'Adige**, and enters the province of Verona.

Past **Peri** and **Dolcè**, the route leaves the s.s. 12 and continues through **Domegliara**, all the way to **Lazise**, on the eastern shore of Lake Garda. Major landmarks here include the imposing mediaeval **Castello Scaligero**.

KM 60

## PESCHIERA DEL GARDA ➤ VERONA ➤ VENETO



**Peschiera del Garda**, next along the route, has a population of 11,000 inhabitants. Two prehistoric pile-dwelling sites (Belvedere and Lago del Frassino) and the **Fortress** of Peschiera are the major landmarks, as well as UNESCO World Heritage sites (since 2001 and since 2017, respectively). Inside, the **Sanctuary of Madonna del Frassino** holds beautiful artworks. Peschiera was hometown to the famous actor Fabio Testi (1941), and to the racing rider Enrico Zardini (1989, who turned professional in 2013).



The route enters Lombardy, briefly touching the province of Brescia through **Pozzo-lengo**. The town was the birthplace of the popular photographer Ugo Mulas (1928–Milan 1973).



*The Sanctuary of Madonna del Frassino, in Peschiera del Garda.*

KM 75

## SAN CASSIANO ➤ MANTUA ➤ LOMBARDY

As the route passes through **San Cassiano**, the stage enters the province of Mantua. Then comes **Medole**, with the beautiful parish of the Assunta, which contains a valuable altarpiece by Titian. **Castel Goffredo**, next along the route, has a mediaeval urban layout, with elegant buildings and arcades alongside the Renaissance Piazza Mazzini.

KM 95

## CASALOLDO ➤ MANTUA ➤ LOMBARDY

The route continues through **Casaloldo** and **Asola**, a populous town by the river Chiese. Main sights here include the central Piazza XX Settembre and the beautiful church of Sant'Andrea, which contains valuable artworks. Casaloldo was the birthplace of two successful riders. Battista Danesi (1886–Milan 1952) was a road and track cyclist and two-time winner of the Italian motor-paced racing championship; Cristian Moreni (1972) won the Italian National Road Championships in 2004, as well as stages at the Vuelta and at the Giro, and even wore the pink jersey for two days.

KM 135

## CREMONA ➤ CREMONA ➤ LOMBARDY

The stage enters the province of Cremona, as the route passes through **Isola Dovarese** (by the Oglio River) and **Cicognolo**.

In Vescovato, close by, there is a famous manufacturer of cycling caps called APIS, which belongs to the Bregalanti family.

Past **Ca' di Mari**, the route reaches **Cremona**. The town is a provincial capital with a population of 72,000, and here the peloton will contest the first intermediate sprint.

An ancient city with age-old customs, it centres on the beautiful Piazza del Comune, with the imposing **Cathedral**, the **Torrazzo**, the **Loggia dei Militi**, the **City Hall** and the **Baptistery**. Cremona is a

leading trade centre, and the food industry is the main driver of local economy: major produce include mostarda, cold cuts, dairy and the popular torrone.



*The iconic Torrazzo, the symbol of the city of Cremona.*



*The Baptistery of Cremona, on the Piazza del Comune.*

Cremona is renowned for violin-making. This old and prestigious tradition began in the 16th century under Andrea Amati, and was handed down through the generations by the Guarneri, Stradivari and Bergonzi families. The international School of Violin and Viola Makers was founded in 1938. Notable natives include the composer Claudio Monteverdi (1567–Venice 1643), the popular actor and director Ugo Tognazzi (1922–Rome 1990), the legendary singer Mina (1940), born Mina



Anna Maria Mazzini in Busto Arsizio to a family hailing from Cremona, and the famous football players Aristide Guarneri (1938) and Antonio Cabrini (1964).

Cremona was also the birthplace of two legendary cycling aces. Addo Kazianka (born to a Polish family in 1931) won one stage at the Giro d'Italia. Maurizio Piovani (1959) was a successful Pro rider and, later, a Directeur Sportif in Giuseppe Saronni's teams. The famous Circuito del Porto-Trofeo Arvedi, organised by the C.C. Cremonese 1891, is the major cycling event.

The list of Giro d'Italia stage winners in Cremona includes Vasco Bergamaschi in 1935, Marino Vigna in 1963 and Francesco Moser in 1986 (in an ITT). In 2006, a team time trial was staged on the same route as in 1986, with victory going to the CSC squad.

KM 150

## CAORSO ➤ PIACENZA ➤ EMILIA-ROMAGNA

The route crosses the Po and enters Emilia-Romagna. The 15th century Castello Pallavicini Casale in **Monticelli d'Ongina**, also referred to as "la Rocca", is now a museum (Museo del Po). The route then continues through **Caorso**, whose town hall is housed inside the **Rocca Mandelli**. Caorso was the birthplace of the cycling legend Attilio Adolfo Pavesi (1910-Buenos Aires 2011), after whom the velodrome of Fiorenzuola is named. Pavesi won two gold medals at the 1932 Olympics in Los Angeles, in the individual and in the team time trials. The professional rider Attilio Maserati (1911-Verbania 1971) was also native to the town.



*The rocca Mandelli di Caorso.*

KM 160

## RONCAGLIA ➤ PIACENZA ➤ EMILIA-ROMAGNA

The route continues through **Roncaglia** and **Piacenza**, the start location of stage 4 on May 11.

KM 180

## ROTTOFRENO ➤ PIACENZA ➤ EMILIA-ROMAGNA

The route continues along the plain, passing through **Rottofreno** and **Castel San Giovanni**, a village in the lower Val Tidone with a long-standing cycling tradition. After the intersection to **Zenevredo/Montù Beccaria** (marking the passage to Lombardy and, specifically, to the province of Pavia), the route starts to follow the gentle undulations of the vine-clad hills of the Oltrepò Pavese, in the Valle Versa.

KM 205

## CASTÀNA ➤ PAVIA ➤ LOMBARDY

After **Roncole**, a hamlet near Montescano, the route takes in a short 4th category climb up to **Castàna**, at an elevation of 328 metres.

KM 220

## BRONI ➤ PAVIA ➤ LOMBARDY

The route continues through **Scorzoletta** and **Cigognola** (at the mouth of the Valle Scuropasso), all the way to **Broni**, where the peloton will contest the second intermediate sprint. The town is a major centre of services and agriculture, especially winemaking, and it has a remarkable architectural heritage.

The economist, banker and former governor of the Italian Central Bank Paolo Baffi (1911–Rome 1989), the fencer Giuseppe Mangiarotti (1883–Bergamo 1970), the writer, poet and journalist Giorgio Soavi (1923–Milan 2008), the writer and cartoonist Tiziano Sclavi (1953, Dylan Dog's author), and the young footballer Simone Verdi (1992, currently playing for Torino F.C.) were all born here.

In 1991, the town hosted the start of an ITT finishing in Casteggio. Franco Chioccioli won that stage in the leader's jersey, and he defended his overall lead through the final stage in Milan the following day.



## FINISH



## STRADELLA ➤ PAVIA ➤ LOMBARDY

The route takes in another short punchy climb up to **Canneto Pavese**, a popular destination for culinary tourism, and then descends towards the finish.



**Stradella** (population: 11,000) is a beautiful town of the Val Versa, and a major winemaking area for Oltrepò Pavese wines. Major produce include Barbera, Bonarda, Pinot Nero and Pinot Grigio.



For many decades, from the end of the 1800s to the mid-1950s, Stradella was one of the main centres of the accordion, thanks to Mariano Dallapè, a native of Trentino but a Stradella native by adoption. A museum of the popular instrument is housed in Palazzo Garibaldi, which also contains Dallapè's first prototype. It is an activity that has declined, as it has in Castelfidardo, in the Marche region, partly due to changing musical tastes and also to the difficulties of facing foreign competition.

Remarkable buildings include the **church of SS. Nabore e Felice**, the **Basilica of San Marcello in Montalino**, built in the Lombard Romanesque style, and the **Civic Tower** downtown.



Stradella hosted one Giro stage finish, back in 1994 (Sondrio-Stradella). Victory went to Maximilian Sciandri, while the powerful Eugenio Berzin (who was born to a Russian family and later became a citizen of Broni) was in the leader's jersey. Emanuele Bombini was his Directeur Sportif. Born in Apulia in 1959 but raised in Stradella, Bombini was a successful professional rider for eleven years.

*The Civic Tower of Stradella.*

# LOMBARDY

Lombardy is a region of north-western Italy, the fourth largest and the second most densely populated Italian region, with 12 provinces. The regional capital is Milan. Lombardy shares borders with Switzerland, Piedmont, Veneto, Trentino-South Tyrol and Emilia Romagna. The region is named after the Lombard (or Langobard) people. Its territory is divided between flatlands (47%) and mountains (41%). The highest point is in the Bernina Massif; the rest of the region (12%) is hilly. Some of the largest lakes in Italy (Lake Garda, Lake Maggiore, Lake Como and Lake Iseo) are found in the Alpine foothills. Many rivers, such as the Po, the Adda, the Oglio, the Mincio and the Ticino, flow through deep and narrow valleys. The Lombard plain is part of the Po Valley, which stretches from Piedmont to Romagna, from the Alps to the Apennines.

The economy of Lombardy is wide and varied: agriculture and livestock, heavy and light industry, the service sector. The region is also a thriving and diverse industrial centre: mechanics, electronics, metallurgy, chemicals and petrochemicals, pharmaceuticals and publishing. In the service sector, commerce and finance are central. Milan is the home of the Italian Stock Exchange and the Fiera di Milano. In 2015, Milan was the venue of the EXPO.

## **Art and culture**

Milan and 11 art capitals, featuring castles, villas and gardens. An outstanding heritage that comes to life every year, with a rich events calendar. Palaces, castles and museums, art galleries, archaeological parks, theatres and villas are the many facets of the artistic and cultural scene of Lombardy. The heritage of the region ranges from the historic lakeside villas and citadels to the Certosa di Pavia, from Leonardo's Last Supper and Michelangelo's Rondanini Pietà to the Sforza Castle (Castello Sforzesco) in Milan, from Palazzo Te in Mantua to the Royal Villa (Villa Reale) in Monza. Take a journey through unexpected fairy-tale places, and be amazed by the beauty of the magnificent castles and palaces, splendid mansions and villas surrounded by wonderful gardens and parks. Although Lombardy is often portrayed as a strictly economic centre, it has an invaluable artistic legacy and it is the Italian region with the highest number of UNESCO World Heritage Sites (10 out of 55 overall nationwide). The region also boasts an outstanding intangible cultural heritage, such as the traditional violin craftsmanship in Cremona, the art of dry stone walling, and the art of transhumance in the Alps.

## **Nature, outdoor activities and mountain sports**

Lombardy is synonymous with mountain sports, both in summer and in winter – including trekking along the ridgeways (Alte Vie) in the Alps, or cycling along the spiritual routes (such as the Via Francigena, which runs 120 kilometres across the Lomellina), rafting along the Ticino river or water sports on the main lakes of the region, where the wind is constantly blowing.

From Madesimo to Foppolo, from Bormio to Livigno, from Santa Caterina Valfurva to Ponte di Legno, and including smaller resorts such as Piani di Bobbio and Valtorta, snow lovers will find options aplenty – including 27 ski areas, 467 downhill runs, 324 kilometres for

cross-country skiing and 14 snow parks, which will cater to the taste of all skiers and snow enthusiasts. Valtellina, which will host the Milano-Cortina 2026 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games, is a true paradise for ski enthusiasts. The area is home to many large ski resorts, including Bormio, which offers 110 kilometres of groomed runs within the Stelvio National Park, after which the most challenging piste of the ski area (the traditional venue of the Alpine Ski World Cup) is named.

### **Food and wine**

Food, wine, culture, history and nature are a bold combination to promote the excellent culinary and winemaking tradition of the territory. Fine DOC wines are produced in nearly all provinces. Special mention must be made of Oltrepo Pavese and Valtellina, of the sparkling wines of Franciacorta, and of the exquisite Lugana and Chiaretto from Lake Garda. Local cuisine offers a wealth of traditional specialties. A typical menu with a contemporary spin may kick off with a glass of Franciacorta Brut, shredded Grana Padano, bresaola from Valtellina and cold cuts from San Colombano. Then a hearty squash risotto and "cotoletta alla Milanese" (breaded veal cutlet), paired with a great glass of Sassella Valtellina Superiore. To top it off, a bite of the crumbly "torta sbrisolona" from Mantua, or a slice of the iconic panettone.

### **Bicycle touring**

Cycling enthusiasts will find plenty of options, with easier or more demanding itineraries along the main tourist routes of the region. From the iconic Passo del Ghisallo, a historical and spiritual climb (a symbol of the Giro in Lombardy and of the so-called Triangolo Lariano), through the beautiful Passo del Vivione, amidst the pristine nature of the Val di Scalve, up to the legendary Passo dello Stelvio, an actual cycling Mecca.

*text provided by the region*



19

# ABBIATEGRASSO - ALPE DI MERA (VALSESIA)

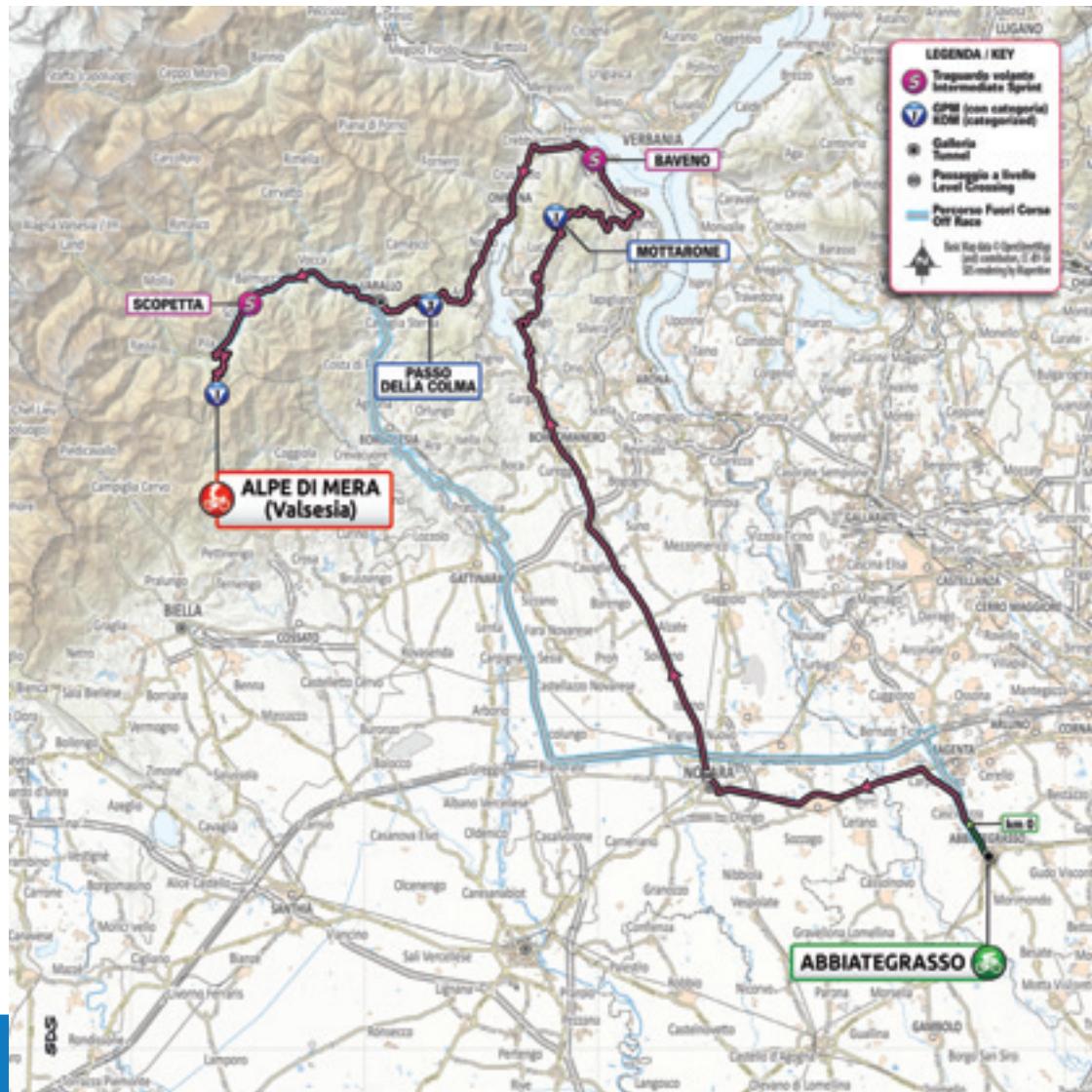
**KM 176**



28.05.2021  
**FRIDAY**



# ABBIATEGRASSO - ALPE DI MERA (VALSESIA)



This stage running from Piedmont to Lombardy is a testing one, to put it mildly, especially in the second half that ends with an uphill finish at Alpe di Mera, in Valsesia, a first-ever location in the geography of the Corsa Rosa.



## START



ABBIATEGRASSO ➤ MILAN ➤ LOMBARDY

**Abbiategrasso**, a populous city lying in the plain south-west of Milan, in the Ticino valley, hosts a stage start for the third time.

The first stage starts here in 2018 was cheered by the crowds of fans. The second time, in the 2020 autumn edition, Abbiategrasso was a makeshift departure and, luckily, it was successfully “conceived” off the cuff following the well-known occurrence in Morbegno. The latter was the originally planned start city, where some teams and riders had demanded – right before the start – to have the whole 253km stage neutralized, given the bad weather conditions (rain and low temperatures).

The city is crossed by the Naviglio Grande and the Naviglio di Bereguardo. Its territory is the largest of the entire province after Milan. The **Basilica of Santa Maria Nuova** built in 1338 is considered as the latest masterpiece by Bramante. The **Castello Visconteo** is currently the seat of the town council.

Abbiategrasso was the placebirth of Marco Villa, a successful rider and head coach of the Italian National track racing team, and the fashion designer Franco Moschino (1950-1994). Illustrious natives include Guerrino Tosello and Giovanni Mantovani, formerly a powerful sprinter who was later in charge of the Giro advertising caravan and then of the finish area. A proud citizen of Abbiategrasso, Mario “Mariett” Cislagli, gave his invaluable support to RCS Sport for decades. He cheered the stage start in his hometown in 2018 and passed away the following year.



*The Visconteo di Abbiategrasso castle.*

The route runs through **Robec-**

**co sul Naviglio**, the residence of Andrea Noè (Magenta 1969) – a good ex Pro with a very long career (1993-2011) who was nicknamed “Grumpy” by his fellow riders in the peloton. The route then runs across **Ponte Vecchio** and **Ponte Nuovo**, both hamlets of Magenta: the sites of the 4 June 1859 battle, where the Austrians were defeated by the Franco-Piedmontese army.



KM 15



## TRECATE ➤ NOVARA ➤ PIEDMONT

Crossed the Ticino river, the race enters the province of Novara, Piedmont; past **Trecate**, a populous and busy town where Domenico Fioravanti (1977) – the first Italian to win medals in lane swimming – the route reaches the main city. In this Giro d'Italia **Novara** has already hosted the finish of the 2nd stage.

KM 55



## BORGOMANERO ➤ NOVARA ➤ PIEDMONT



The route continues heading for **Caltignaga** with its castle, **Momo** on the banks of the Agogna stream, **Baraggione** in the municipal territory of Cressa, and then reaches **Borgomanero**. It is the second largest city in the province after Novara. Lying at the foot of the hills, not far from Lake Orta and Lake Maggiore, the old town reveals its medieval origins. The **church of San Bartolomeo Apostolo** is noteworthy. The famed natives of Borgomanero include Pasquale Fornara (1925-1990), four-time winner of the Tour of Switzerland; Alessandro Covi (1998), a young Pro rider; Achille Marazza (1894-Verbania 1967), a politician from the Partito Popolare and benefactor of the city; Ettore Mo (1932), a frontline journalist.



*The Church of San Bartolomeo Apostolo, in Borgomanero.*

In the 1997 Giro d'Italia the Verrès-Borgomanero stage was won by the Tuscan Alessandro Baronti. Domenico Piemontesi, aka "the Lion from Boca" (Boca 1903-Borgomanero 1987) died in Borgomanero. He was a professional from 1922 to 1938 who won 11 stages at the Giro and was leader of several standings. Later he became a Sports Director well-known for his motto: "Take or break."

KM 70



## ORTA SAN GIULIO ➤ NOVARA ➤ PIEDMONT



The route passes **Gozzano** and **Orta San Giulio**, after which Lake Orta is named, known also as Cusio. Orta's pedestrian old town is characterized by narrow roads that converge Piazza Motta, surrounded by historical buildings. The **Church of Santa Maria Assunta** is worth a visit. The **Sacro Monte di Orta** (a devotional complex) is one of the nine Sacred Alpine mounts in

Piedmont and Lombardy that, since 2003, have been listed in the UNESCO World Heritage. The ancient **Basilica of San Giulio** stands on the island of San Giulio, 400 metres off the lakeshore. Birthplace of Leonardo Benevolo (1923–Cellatica 2017), an architect, urbanist and historian of architecture and of Paola Saini (1945), an outstanding Italian short-distance swimmer, daughter of CONI Secretary General Mario Saini.



*The Basilica of San Giulio, on the island.*

In Orta San Giulio the late Tuscan Fabrizio Fabbri claimed the victory on the Arenzano-Orta stage at the 1975 Giro.

The road starts to go up at the entry of **Armeno** (523m) with its remarkable Romanesque **church of Santa Maria Assunta**, built around 1100. Armeno is a well-known town because several generations of the village have carried out, as migrants, hotel-related work around the world. This phenomenon is illustrated in a dedicated museum. In September 2021, the small 17th-century **Sanctuary of the Madonna di Luciago**, by the roadside, will start the celebrations to mark the 500th anniversary of the fresco of the Crucifix that comes from the original chapel built here by the valley dwellers.

## KM 85



### MOTTARONE ➤ VERBANO-CUSIO-OSSOLA ➤ PIEDMONT

The hardest section of the 1st-category climb up the **Mottarone** (1341m) begins here. It has been a popular summer and winter sports resort since the second half of the 19th century. Its summit offers a 360° panorama, from the Maritime Alps to Monte Rosa, the Po Valley and Adamello, and a spectacular view of seven lakes (Orta, Maggiore, Mergozzo, Varese, Monate, Comabbio, and Biandronno). It featured in the route of the Giro d'Italia and other races on several occasions. Here Vittorio Adorni met his wife, Vitaliana Erbetta, the daughter of the owner of the Hotel Casa della Neve, where Adorni he was staying. Past the summit, the route enters the province of Verbano-Cusio-Ossola, and descends across **Gignese**, a village known for the Alpinia Botanical Garden with rich mountain flora. Gignese was the buen retiro of Carlo Proserpio, a speaker of cycling, boxing and other sports.



*Bobsleigh track on Mottarone.*



KM 105



## STRESA ➤ VERBANO-CUSIO-OSSOLA ➤ PIEDMONT



Lake Maggiore near stresa.

The descending route runs across Vezzo and flattens out in Stresa. The town, on the Borromeo Gulf of Lake Maggiore, facing the islands of the same name (Madre, Bella, Pescatori), has been enriched with splendid gardens and elegant buildings, villas and hotels since the end of the 18th century. It has always conveyed and maintained an image of finely defined elegance, that was refined during the "Art Nouveau" years of the early 1900s, and has always been a much sought-after destination for international tourism.

It hosts many cultural and artistic events, including international congresses and conferences. It is home to the Centro Studi Rosminiano of the Blessed Antonio Rosmini (Rovereto 1797-Stresa 1855).

KM 110



## BAVENO ➤ VERBANO-CUSIO-OSSOLA ➤ PIEDMONT

Then comes **Baveno**, with its fine lakefront and its hamlet Feriolo. Leaving Lake Maggiore, the route reaches **Gravellona Toce**, at the border of the Ossola territory, that hosted the 19th stage of the 2015 Giro finishing in Cervinia. The race course then runs across **Omegna** (first intermediate sprint) at the northern end of Lake Orta, with the old town that recalls its origins as a fortified medieval village. The late-Romanesque collegiate church of Sant'Ambrogio is noteworthy. Omegna is a very active commercial and industrial centre: it was here in the 1950s that Bialetti's moka coffee makers with the "little man with a moustache" started to be produced and later sold worldwide. Omegna was the birthplace of Gianni Rodari (1920-Roma 1980), a writer, poet and pedagogue, author of works for children and youths.



KM 135



## PASSO DELLA COLMA ➤ VERBANO-CUSIO-OSSOLA ➤ PIEDMONT

The route then reaches **Cesara**, at the bottom of the panoramic 3rd-category climb up the **Passo della Colma** (928m), past Arola, and then enters the province of Vercelli in Valsesia.

KM 150



## VARALLO ➤ VERCELLI ➤ PIEDMONT

The route descends to **Varallo**, the chief town of the area, population around 7,000, the second largest one after Vercelli. Here rises the **Sacro Monte di Varallo**, the oldest of the Sacred Mounts, built from 1491. Other main sights include the **collegiate church of San Gaudenzio** and the 16th-century **Church of the Madonna delle Grazie**.

The local specialties include the "miaccia", made with flour, eggs, and milk and then cooked on the stove with a special tool – a typical dish from the Walser tradition, a population of Germanic origin living in the Alpine regions around Monte Rosa – and "panICCIA del carnevale valsesiano", a tasty variation of rice and vegetable soup.

The Alta Valsesia and Alta Val Strona Natural Park – Europe's highest mountain park – is naturalistically splendid. In the valley, the figure of Dolcino da Novara or fra Dolcino (Prato Sesia 1250-Vercelli 1307) is remembered in various places. He was a controversial preacher, founder of the "Dolciniani" movement and accused of heresy by the inquisition. He was burned in 1307 and lived in the area for a long time, between reality and legend.



*View of the Sacromonte di Varallo.*



## FINISH



## ALPE DI MERA ➤ VERCELLI ➤ PIEDMONT

The route runs on a slight slope, passes **Balmuccia** and the hamlet of Scopa, **Scopetta** (second intermediate sprint), and finally reaches **Scopello**, the municipal territory of the finish at **Alpe di Mera**.

Scopello is located in the north-west of the province of Vercelli, with the main town at 660 metres. The major church is the parish church of the Assunta.

The new Palazzetto Comunale (town hall), named after the Alpine skiing champion Bruno Confortola (he was born here in 1963 and died in an avalanche in 1991) is a multipurpose hall for sports and recreational use.

The Busto Arsizio-Scopello is an amateur cycling event that can be a "classic in its own right": it has been raced for 24 years and has involved some renowned former Pros.

The main sports activities here include rafting, canyoning, i.e. descending steeply sloping torrents through narrow gorges on foot without a canoe or raft, as well as mountain biking, hiking and horse riding.

Past the village, the route starts to ascend heading for Alpe di Mera: a 1st-category 10km climb with an average 10% gradient and peaks reaching 12% in the second half with uphill finish. It is an unspoiled natural setting for skiers.



# NOTE

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



20

# VERBANIA – VALLE SPLUGA/ ALPE MOTTA

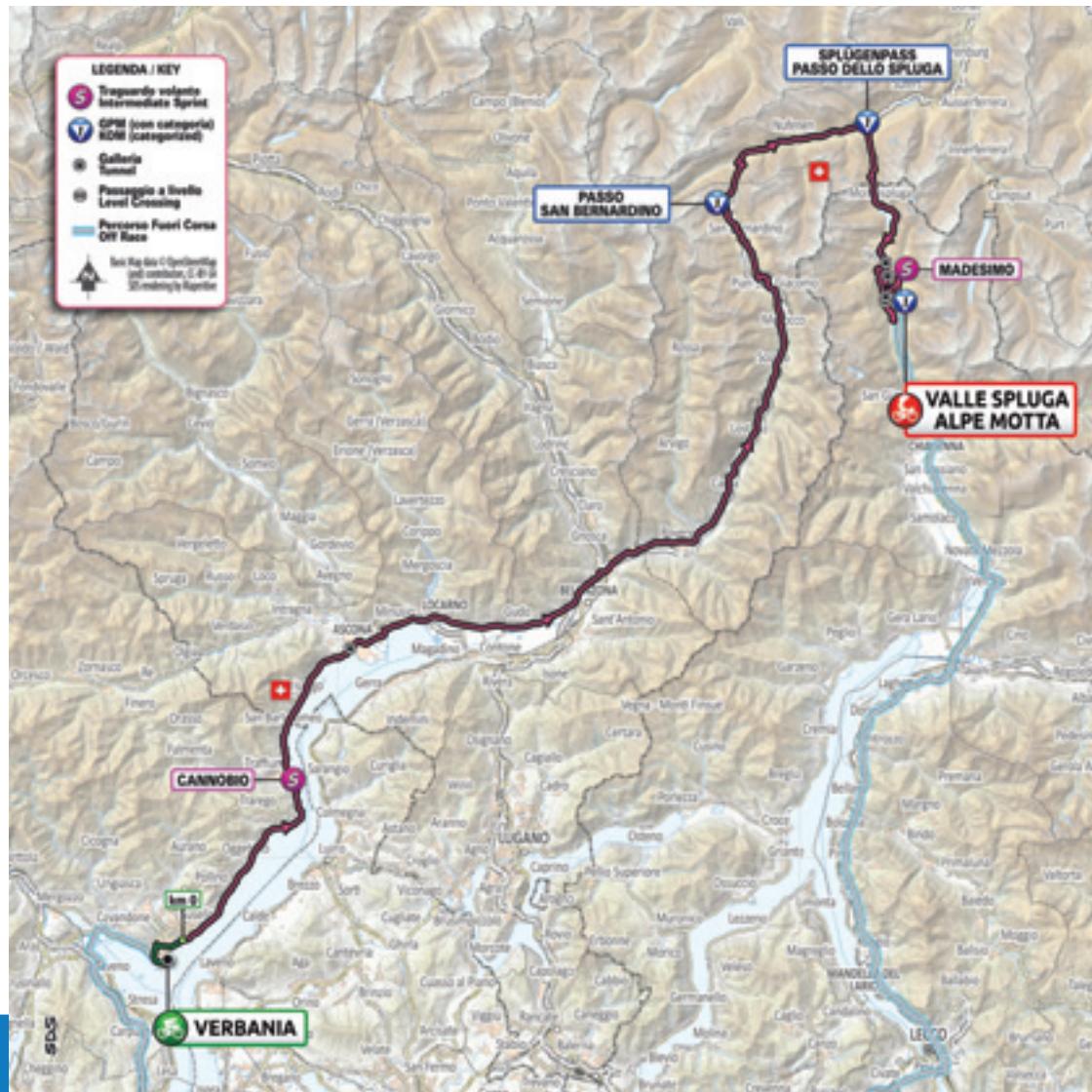
**KM 164**



29.05.2021  
**SATURDAY**



# VERBANIA - VALLE SPLUGA/ALPE MOTTA



This is a quite testing last mountain stage – or rather, high mountain stage! Most ascents are in the second half of the route spanning from Piedmont to Lombardy, including a fairly long section in the neighbouring Switzerland.



## START

 VERBANIA ➤ VERBANO-CUSIO-OSSOLA ➤ PIEDMONT

The start city is **Verbania**, resulting from the unification of the municipal territories of Intra and Pallanza in 1939. It lies on a promontory of the enchanting Borromeo Gulf in a panoramic position and is dotted with numerous beautiful villas and parks. It is the chief city of the province of Verbano-Cusio-Ossola that formed in 1992.

The town of Pallanza has a characteristic medieval layout, surrounded by fine buildings; Intra is characterized by a busy port facing Laveno, on the Lombard shore, and several buildings in the town centre display Baroque and Neoclassical architectural elements.

Main sights in Pallanza include the Baroque **Viani-Dugnani Palace**, the Museo del Paesaggio and the Museo Storico Artistico del Verbano, which host fine art works. In the area, major landmarks include the **Oratory of San Remigio** and the **Church of Madonna di Campagna**. Between Pallanza and Intra stands the splendid **Villa Taranto**, with the richest European collection of exotic plants and flower species in the garden.

The nearby Vignone is the birthplace of Filippo Ganna (1996), a multifaceted champion both in road and track racing.

Verbania hosted several Giro d'Italia stage finishes: in 1952, with victory going to the Swiss Fritz Schaer ahead of Alfredo Martini; in 1992 (Franco Chioccioni), and in 2015 (the Belgian Philippe Gilbert).

Verbania featured also in the route of the Tour of Switzerland, the Giro Rosa (the Women's Giro d'Italia), and in the 2008 European Championships.



*The Church of the Madonna di Campagna, a national monument, in Pallanza.*



*Villa Taranto and its garden, between Pallanza and Intra.*



KM 15

**CANNOBIO ➤ VERBANO-CUSIO-OSSOLA ➤ PIEDMONT**

The route runs along the Piedmontese shore of Lake Maggiore, passing **Cannero Riviera**, a pretty lakeside town, and **Cannobio** (intermediate sprint), a tourist destination that hosted the start of the 2003 Giro's 20th stage that finished in Cantù, with victory going to Giovanni Lombardi.

KM 35

**LOCARNO ➤ CANTON OF TICINO ➤ SWITZERLAND**

The route enters the Canton of Ticino, Switzerland, still running alongside Lake Maggiore and touching **Brissago** and **Ascona**, and reaches **Locarno**. It is a renowned summer and winter resort, with a favourable climate, home to the famous International Film Festival since 1946 and a variety of other cultural and artistic events. At the time of the Visconti and Sforza families Locarno was part of the Duchy of Milan.



Locarno hosted a stage finish in 1938, with victory going to the Swiss Leo Amberg, and in 2008, when the German Greipel claimed the win outsprinting Mark Cavendish and Daniele Bennati.



The route then continues heading for **Cugnasco**, lying on the Ticino river banks, then **Monte Carasso**, in the municipal territory of Bellinzona, the capital city of the Canton of Ticino – population around 45,000 – with a pretty old town. Its three castles and the ancient walls have been named a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 2000.



*The port in Locarno.*

KM 55



## ARBEDO ➤ CANTON OF TICINO ➤ SWITZERLAND

Past **Arbedo**, at the confluence of important communication routes between the Po Valley and the Rhone, Reuss and Rhine valleys, the race course enters the mountainous territory of the Canton of Graubünden. Here, the road begins to climb. The route passes **Roveredo** in the Val Mesolcina, then **Lostallo** and **Mesocco**, with its imposing castle and the nearby church of Santa Maria.

KM 105



## SAN BERNARDINO PASS ➤ CANTON OF THE GRISONS ➤ SWITZERLAND

The route takes in the 1st-category climb up the **San Bernardino Pass** (2065), past the homonymous village in the Moesa region. The ascent to the summit is quite manageable. The descent runs through **Hinterrhein** and then **Splügen**, where the route flattens out (1460m a.l.s.). Both towns, along with Nufenen, were included in the new municipal territory of Rheinwald in 2019.

KM 135



## SPLUGA PASS ➤ SONDRIO ➤ LOMBARDY

Without respite, the route takes in the 1st-category climb up the Splügenpass/ **Spluga Pass** (2115m), back in Italy, in the province of Sondrio, Lombardy. It is a historical pass that was designed by the engineer Giovanni Donegani (Brescia 1775–Milan 1845) and was inaugurated in 1821. The roughly 9km climb with over 653m elevation gain and an average 7.4% gradient is not an unprecedented ascent.

**Spluga da capogiro** was launched in the 2020 summer and became a successful event right away. On some Sundays between July and September the historic section of SS 36 Spluga road from Campodolcino to Pianazzo di Madesimo was closed to traffic from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m., allowing cyclists and pedestrians to use it safely. Once they reached Pianazzo, they could continue on to Motta Alta, taking the



The northern side of the Spluga Pass.





Pianazzo-Madesimo cycleway. It is the historic monumental road built between 1818 and 1822 by the Austrians to a design by the engineer Donegani, a spectacular itinerary from the point of view of the landscape, a succession of 10 switchbacks that climb up the steep side of the mountain for 3.5 kilometres (300m total elevation gain).

With the construction of the San Gottardo tunnel, the Splug Pass lost its initial strategic importance in the international trades and became an access route that later turned into a major tourist attraction.

The initiative was very well received and, from its outset, many cyclists ventured along the route, across the entire carriageway, totally safe and enjoying a unique landscape.

## KM 140



### MONTESPLUGA ➤ SONDRIO ➤ LOMBARDY

The route then passes **Montespluga**, in the municipal territory of Madesimo, the Italian town furthest from a coast (the nearest one is in the municipality of Genoa, 234 kilometres away). The route takes in the fast-running descent across the woods, with several switchbacks and tunnels, down to the Madesimo junction; it then rolls through the hamlet of Isola and enters the municipality of Campodolcino, in the nearby Val San Giacomo. It is pleasant summer and winter holiday area with many hamlets, one of which (Fraciscio) is the birthplace of Don Luigi Guanella (1842-Como 1915), who was proclaimed a saint in 2011.

## KM 160



### MADESIMO ➤ SONDRIO ➤ LOMBARDY

The route goes up again back in the vast municipal territory of **Madesimo** (second intermediate sprint), with the city hall in **Pianazzo**. Here the main sight is the spectacular Scaloggia 160m waterfall. Madesimo, lying in a basin surrounded by considerable coniferous forests, is a traditional holiday resort, with modern and well-equipped facilities for Alpine and Nordic skiing and related activities.

Madesimo was the birthplace of Italo Pedroncelli (1935-1992), an Alpine ski-



A view of Madesimo.

ing specialist and later also national team coach. The poet Giosuè Carducci holidayed here for several seasons, and the great Zeno Colò (Abetone Cutigliano 1920–San Marcello Pistoiese 1993), a historical and world and Olympic champion in the 1950s, also loved to train in Madesimo.

In 1965 the finish of the Saas Fee–Madesimo stage was set here, where Vittorio Adorni, the maglia rosa holder, sealed his victorious Giro taking first ahead of Vito Taccone at 3'33". In 1987, the stage victory went to the Frenchman Jean-François Bernard.

## FINISH



### VALLE SPLUGA-ALPE MOTTA ➤ SONDRIO ➤ LOMBARDY

The route takes in the final uphill section to reach **Alpe Motta**, 1st-category and summit and stage finish (1727m) at Motta di Sotto.

Alpe Motta falls in the municipal territory of Campodolcino, a ski resort that can be reached in less than 5 minutes with the state-of-the-art funicular at the bottom of the valley that climbs a 639m total vertical elevation, over 1,406 metres entirely in tunnels. At the top of the Alpe there is a gold-plated statue of the Madonna of Europe, the patron saint of skiers.

Alpe Motta is a pleasant ski and hike resort with welcoming accommodation facilities offering delicious samples of the varied and popular cuisine and local produce. Lake Azzurro, surrounded by coniferous scrubland, is very picturesque. At this point, the mountains of the 2021 Giro d'Italia are over. Only after tomorrow's final 30km individual time trial, an entirely flat stage from Senago to the iconic Piazza Duomo in Milan, we will know the final podiums of the Giro classifications.



A view of Lake Azzurro.



Statue of the Madonna of Europe, the patron saint of skiers.

## **NOTE**



21

# SENAZO – MILANO TISSOT ITT

**KM 30,3**

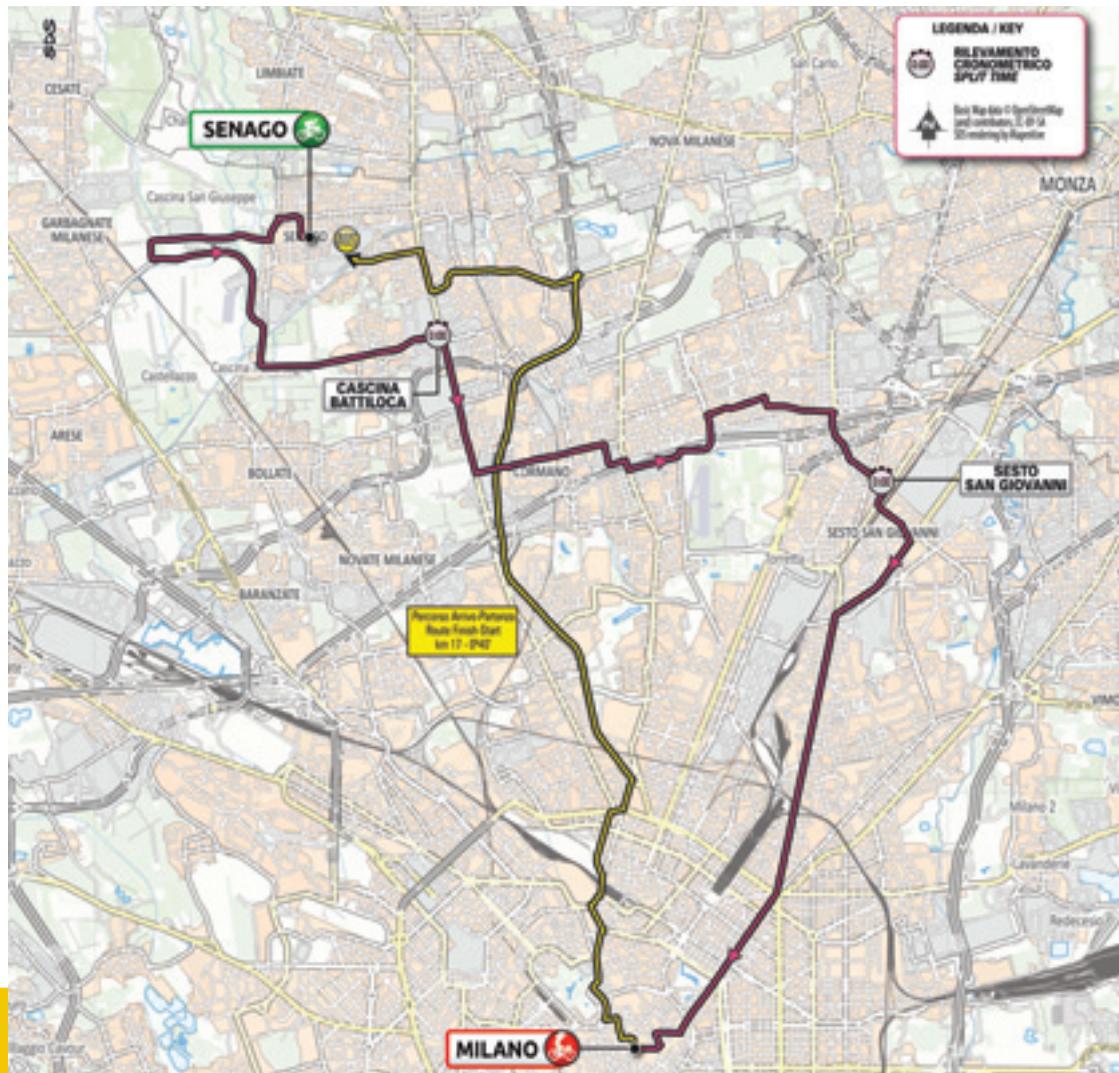


30.05.2021  
**SUNDAY**

21



# SENAZO - MILANO TISSOT IT



For the 79th time in history, **Milan** – traditionally, the “home” of the Giro – will be hosting the final stage of this legendary cycling event, and for the 21st time, this will be a time trial. To provide other figures, for ten times in the history of the Giro, Milan also hosted an intermediate stage. This individual time trial will be the perfect opportunity to see the riders in action, one by one, and cheer on the remaining contestants – the “survivors” – of the Giro d’Italia.



## START



SENAGO &gt; MILAN &gt; LOMBARDY

**Senago** is a new name on the list of all the cities that have hosted a stage start or finish of this cheerful springtime celebration that we call the Corsa Rosa. It has a population of approx. 21,000 inhabitants and lies some 16 kilometres away from Milan. This stage, totalling nearly 30 km, will be the final testing ground for the riders, who will have to go all out in their race against the clock.

The city lies in the plain, north-west of the regional capital, near the edge of the Parco delle Groane. Established in 1976, this nature conservation area is home to native plant and animal species, and it has unique geological features. "Groane" was an ancient name used to refer to the moorland. There are many archaeological remains of historic industries in this area, and especially of older brick kilns. The Villoresi canal flows through the municipal territory, and there is a busy, unpaved cycle track running alongside it, from the Ticino to the Adda.

The beautiful **Villa Borromeo** is one of the major landmarks in town. It was built to an original design by the cardinal Federico Borromeo in the 17th century, and was later refined by the architects Fausto and Giuseppe Bagatti Valsecchi in the early 1900s. Particularly notable among the many fine "ville di delizia" (namely, stately villas with large gardens that were the possession of noble Milanese families in the 18th century) are **Villa Corbella-Martinelli-Sioli**, **Villa Verzolo-Monzini**, which houses the public library, **Villa Ponti**, and **Villa Po Degli Occhi**, which has now been converted into a residential compound.

Since the second post-war period, Senago has grown from an agricultural town into a major manufacturing centre, with a diverse range of industries.



Villa Borromeo in Senago, one of the "ville di delizia" in this area.



The city has a genuine long-standing passion for cycling. Starting in 1968, the local cycling association, Pedale Senaghese, has engaged in promoting this sport among the younger generations, under the initiative of its passionate founders, Rino Cattaneo (1935-Arese 2005, a professional cyclist from 1959 to 1961), Rino Fedeli and Pietro Beretta. Many successful riders in superior categories actually moved their first steps here.

The route weaves through the hinterland of Milan, traveling from Senago through **Garbagnate Milanese**, **Cascina Traversagna** and **Cassina Nuova** (at the outskirts of Bollate) to **Cascina Battilocca**. The first split time is taken here, a little more than 9 kilometres into the race. The stage is now in the municipal territory of **Paderno Dugnano**. Before entering Milan, the route travels the densely populated conurbation north of the city. Here, residential areas alternate with malls and manufacturing facilities, with a few public green areas in between, and some notable architectural landmarks, the heritage of a long-gone or recent past.

## KM 10



### PADERNO DUGNANO ➤ MILAN ➤ LOMBARDY

The name of Paderno Dugnano is linked to that of Paolo Magretti (Milan 1854-1913), a scientist, naturalist, entomologist and explorer, as well as cycling pioneer who in 1876 won the first edition of Milano-Torino, the oldest classic bicycle race in the world. Luigi Annoni (1890-Legnano 1974), who won three stages at the Giro d'Italia, was native to the city.

The route then turns left and merges onto the s.p. 44, more commonly known as "Vecchia Comasina" or Strada Statale dei Giovi, a traffic route running from Como to Milan. The route continues through **Cormano** and its hamlets, Ospitaletto and Brusuglio. The main sight here is the neoclassical Villa Manzoni (formerly Villa Imbonati), the summer residence of the famous author, which still contains his library.

## KM 15



### CUSANO MILANINO ➤ MILAN ➤ LOMBARDY

Passing through the large Parco Nord, the route reaches **Cusano Milanino**. The town comprises the original nucleus of Cusano and the newer district of Milanino, built in the early 1910s according to the canons of English garden-cities, with elegant Art Nouveau villas and large gardens. The town was the birthplace of Giovanni Trapattoni (1939), a leading figure of international football, and of Roberto "Bob" Lovati (1927-Rome 2011), a popular goalkeeper and, later, manager of Lazio Football Club. The world-renowned cycling manufacturer De Rosa, founded by Ugo De Rosa, is headquartered here.

Then comes **Bresso**, along the Seveso River. The beautiful Villa Rivolta and the civil aviation airport are the major landmarks here. The route then passes through **Crocetta di Balsamo**, entering the municipal territory of Cinisello Balsamo (population: 75,000). The town was the birthplace of two football aces: Ernesto Castano (1939), and the late Pierino Prati (1946-Montorfano 2020), a top-scorer for many teams as well as for the Italian National team.

KM 20

## SESTO SAN GIOVANNI ➤ MILAN ➤ LOMBARDY

The second split time is taken in **Sesto San Giovanni**. The city, previously the seat of one of the largest industrial clusters in Italy, is now a major centre for metalworking, electro-technical engineering, electronics and much more. With a population of over 80,000 inhabitants, it is the second most populous municipality of the province after Milan, with which it forms a larger conurbation.

The city has long been home to a large, left-leaning and highly unionised working class, which earned it the nickname of "the Stalingrad of Italy". As the major industrial plants were shut down in the 1990s, the industrial economy was superseded by the advanced service sector and by trade. Particularly remarkable among the many fine villas are Villa Torretta and Villa Pelucca. The city was the birthplace of Gino Strada (1948) and of his wife Teresa Sarti (1946–2009), the co-founders of the humanitarian NGO Emergency in 1994.

Notable natives also include Ferdinando "Nando" Terruzzi (1924–Sarzana 2014), a successful track cyclist who won many six-day cycling events.



Villa Torretta  
in Sesto San Giovanni,  
presently a luxury hotel.

FINISH

## MILAN ➤ MILAN ➤ LOMBARDY

The route finally enters in **Milan**. True icons of the city, a metropolis of long history, include the **Duomo** and the **Madonnina**, the **Teatro alla Scala**, the **Castello Sforzesco**, the **church of Santa Maria delle Grazie**, the **basilica of Sant'Ambrogio**, the **Galleria Vittorio Emanuele**, the newer city districts and much more.

Notable venues for sports include the San Siro-Giuseppe Meazza Stadium, the "Arena Civica" sports ground, named after Gianni Brera, and the historic Vigorelli velodrome,





dedicated to the great sprinter Antonio Maspes. Besides these notable landmarks, special mention must also be made of the many personalities (natives and non-natives alike) that greatly contributed to the development of the city throughout the ages and across all fields.

The route of the ITT continues along the lengthy and straight Viale Monza through the districts of Precotto and Gorla. Here, our memory goes to the military air raid by the Allied bombers in World War II, on 20 October 1944, which killed 184 primary school children. For years, a cycling race in the Youth category paid tribute to the "little martyrs of Gorla".

Piazzale Loreto, next along the route, was the starting place of the first-ever Giro on 13 May 1909, at 2.53 am – a day that marked the beginning of an amazing story, not only for cycling. The stage continues along the wide, straight and busy Corso Buenos Aires all the way to Porta Venezia (the ancient Porta Orientale) and Corso Venezia, near the planetarium and the natural history museum (Museo civico di storia naturale). Running between the elegant buildings, the route rolls past Piazza San Babila with its Romanesque basilica, Corso Matteotti, Piazza Filippo Meda, Via San Paolo and Piazza Liberty. The elegant Corso Vittorio Emanuele II will eventually lead into the stunning scenery of Piazza Duomo – the perfect setting for the crowning moment of the entire race. As soon as time – the sole, cold and unmistakable judge – will have delivered its final verdict, it will be the time for a heart-warming celebration. We are confident that the 2021 Giro will be, once again, a joyous and cheerful feast, an emblem of renaissance. The perfect opportunity to celebrate sports and life, and to do it out there, together.



*The statue of Our Lady of the Assumption on the highest spire of the Cathedral, which stands as the symbol of the town.*

# VORREI LA SCOPRISSI COME ME. OGNI GIORNO.



COMO  
LOMBARDIA. ITALIA.

CASEY  
CICLISTA



Santuario Madonna del Ghisallo: 45°55'25.18"N 9°16'1.63"E

Scopri di più su: [in-lombardia.it](http://in-lombardia.it)  
#inLombardia



Regione  
Lombardia

# NOTE

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



zampdiverse

SEGUI IL VIAGGIO  
SOSTENIBILE  
DEL GIRO SU  
[WWW.GIORDITALIA.IT](http://WWW.GIORDITALIA.IT)

GIORDITALIA.IT

# Giro d'Italia

## RIDE GREEN

### LA SOSTENIBILITÀ È IL NOSTRO PRIMO TRAGUARDO

- RACCOLTA DIFFERENZIATA
- AVVIARE A RICICLO I MATERIALI RACCOLTI
- MISURARE LE PERFORMANCE
- SENSIBILIZZARE E COMUNICARE
- UPCYCLE
- AMBIENTE

**RIDE GREEN** è il progetto di RCS Sport dedicato alla protezione dell'ambiente e alla sostenibilità, che promuove la salvaguardia delle aree attraversate dalla Corsa Rosa attraverso l'organizzazione della raccolta differenziata dei rifiuti. Un progetto nato nel 2016 che coinvolge tutti i cittadini dei paesi dove passa la corsa, gli addetti ai lavori e i media, e che nell'ultima edizione ha recuperato oltre 45 mila kg di rifiuti, di cui l'89% di essi differenziati e avviati al riciclo.

Completano il progetto green **BiciScuola** e **Giro-E**.

MEDIA PARTNER



SPONSOR



SCARPA



# MAGLIE DEL GIRO D'ITALIA 2021

GIRO D'ITALIA 2021 JERSEYS

## MAGLIA CICLAMINO

CLASSIFICA A PUNTI  
GENERAL POINTS  
CLASSIFICATION



È la maglia che premia la classifica a punti, riservata ai velocisti. Accesa come una volata e delicata come una speranza, ha il colore di un fiore che fiorisce d'autunno, simbolo della perseveranza che occorre per essere sempre lì davanti, in ogni sprint intermedio e di gruppo, fino all'ultima tappa.

*Awarded to the leader of the points classification, this jersey is usually a sprinters' thing.*

*Flashing as a powerful sprint, yet as gentle as hope, it bears the colour of a fall-blooming flower. It represents the determination and grit it takes to be at the front every time, at each intermediate sprint, at each bunch sprint, to and through the final stage.*

## MAGLIA AZZURRA

CLASSIFICA GPM  
KING OF THE MOUNTAIN  
CLASSIFICATION



È la maglia degli scalatori, e non a caso ha il colore del cielo. Perché quando si è in salita verso il Gran Premio della montagna e le forze sembrano venir meno, l'azzurro sopra di noi diventa bussola e scopo, l'obiettivo che ci fa andare avanti. Come premio, un pezzo di cielo da indossare.

*Unsurprisingly, the best climber's jersey is as blue as the sky.*

*Because when you're pushing to the KOM and you feel that strength is failing, the blue sky above becomes your guiding light, your aim, the goal that keeps you going.*

*And a patch of sky will be the reward.*

SALITE INFINITE,  
DISCESE A PERDIFIATO  
PER STACCARE  
ANCHE LA TUA OMBRA.  
PER ESSERE LEGGENDA,  
PER ESSERE MAGLIA ROSA.

## MAGLIA ROSA

### CLASSIFICA GENERALE *GENERAL TIME* *CLASSIFICATION*



Dal 1931 è simbolo del primato, un'icona mondiale, una pagina di tessuto rosa su cui da novant'anni si scrive la storia del ciclismo.

È il sogno di ogni bambino che sale in bicicletta e la speranza di ogni campione che parte, ogni primavera, per il Giro d'Italia.

*It's been the leader's jersey since 1931. A world icon. A page made of pink fabric, where the history of cycling has been written over the past 90 years.*

*It's the dream of every child who starts riding a bicycle. It's the dream of every rider taking to the start of the Giro d'Italia every year.*

ENDLESS CLIMBS,  
BREATHLESS DOWNHILLS  
TO BREAK AWAY  
EVEN FROM YOUR OWN SHADOW.  
TO BE A LEGEND,  
TO BE THE MAGLIA ROSA.

## MAGLIA BIANCA

### CLASSIFICA MIGLIOR GIOVANE *BEST YOUNG RIDER* *CLASSIFICATION*



È la maglia destinata al miglior giovane, di un bianco che racchiude in sé tutti i colori, tutte le speranze, tutte le possibilità.

È un premio e al contempo un augurio, per la più bella pagina che è ancora tutta da scrivere.

*The jersey for the best young rider is white, just like the sum of all colours. It holds all hopes and dreams.*

*It is, at once, a prize and a wish. A blank page for a new, exciting chapter to be written.*



## TV ROADBOOK

**RESEARCH AND TEXTS** GIUSEPPE FIGINI

**LOOK&FEEL** ZAMPEDIVERSE

**GRAPHIC DESIGN  
AND PRINT** ÀNCORA ARTI GRAFICHE MILANO

**PHOTO** LA PRESSE | CITTÀ DI TAPPA

**EDITORIAL BOARD** EDISTUDIO

The photos, taken from Widimedia Commons, are either public domain or under the following licenses: GNU Free Documentation License vers. 1.2 and newer. Creative Commons 2.0, 2.5, 3.0, 4.0.

**La Gazzetta dello Sport**

Tutto il rosa della vita

**RCS Sport**  
Move your Business



# Giro d'Italia

8-30 MAY 2021